

Warning over Militant front

Labour Party crackdown on poll tax group

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

THE Labour Party leadership last night declared the All-Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation, which is campaigning for mass non-payment of the community charge, a front for the Militant Tendency.

Labour Party members were advised by a special meeting of the National Executive Committee to "take care" not to support the federation, whose parliamentary spokesman is Mr Dave Nellist, Labour MP for Coventry South-East.

The move was made by 12 votes to four, with Mr Tony Benn leading the opposition, after Mr Neil Kinnock told the NEC: "It is our duty to advise people that we have nothing to do with this organization, want nothing to do with it, and neither should anyone else."

He said that the way to oppose the poll tax was through the ballot box. The motion passed by the NEC pointed out that nine of the 14-member executive committee of the federation were "self-declared Militant Tendency supporters".

They include one of its leading organizers, Mr Tommy Sheridan, who has already been expelled from the party.

Labour spokesmen said last night the decision did not mean that party members associating with the federation would automatically be opening themselves up to disciplinary action. "We are advising people that this is a Militant front organization,"

However, it was said that people's involvement with the organization would be taken into account during any investigations against party members for membership of Militant. Asked about the position of Mr Nellist, the spokesman said he would be advised of the executive committee's view that it was a Militant front organization.

The move came after Mr Nellist yesterday chaired a Commons press conference at which the federation announced plans to "unleash a campaign", stepping up opposition to the poll tax, including a march from Glasgow arriving in London in October.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Conservative Party chairman, had earlier called on Mr Kinnock to expel from the party people associated with the federation. He said that it remained "wedded to lawlessness, intimidation and violence". Mr Kinnock said at last night's meeting that it was wrong to tell people not to pay the poll tax. Such action attacked the councils and not the Tories, but such calls were "meat and drink" to the organizers of the federation.

The Labour leader said: "There are a lot of very honest people who want to oppose the poll tax and get involved with the federation without knowing who he behind it. When they found out, they rapidly moved."

In an earlier letter to Mr Kinnock, Mr Baker said: "I urge you, once again, to expel these people from your party without any further delay. It is high time you stood up to them. If you do not, you will be seen not as the party of the red rose but the party of the white feather."

Mr Baker said he was sure that Mr Kinnock had been shocked to read of the continuing activities of the organization of the federation. "It remains wedded to lawlessness, intimidation and violence. Some of its leaders are also still wedded to the Labour Party. For all your posturing about Militant you have not cleared more than a tiny fraction of these people out of the Labour Party."

"You have equally failed to take any action against one of your own parliamentary col-

leagues, David Nellist, who has given his 'full backing' to the federation and its works."

Opposing the move at last night's meeting were Mr Benn, Mr Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, Miss Clare Short, frontbench spokesman on social security, and Miss Jo Richardson, party spokesman on women's rights.

Mr Nellist said earlier that the Glasgow to London anti-poll tax protest, which would be joined by feeder marches from areas such as Liverpool, was designed to arrive in the capital during the political party conference season.

A mass demonstration and festival to celebrate "mass defiance against the poll tax" on the marchers' arrival would follow on October 13. Asked how the federation would help prevent a repeat of the violence which broke out at its Trafalgar Square protest, Mr Sheridan said: "We will need more stewards at our demonstration. But we are confident that if we do not have the same level of police presence and intimidation we will have a peaceful demonstration and festival to meet the marchers."

In response to a police investigation into the violence, the federation had set up an independent committee to undertake its own inquiry.

Mr Nellist said that he would be tabling a Commons motion after allegations that the Special Branch had been photographing anti-poll tax demonstrators on a recent march in Dudley, West Midlands. It would be calling on police to hand over films and negatives.

Mr Nellist went on to identify further activities to "strengthen the mood for mass defiance", including a conference of trade unionists to prevent collection of the poll tax, and a meeting of Labour councillors who have refused to pay.

Mr Nellist later claimed that there were more than 10 million non-payers of the poll tax in England and Wales. In some areas, such as Newport and Cardiff, non-payers totalled 42 per cent and 45 per cent respectively of those required to pay, Mr Sheridan added.



Driven out of town: American tourists are escorted by Israeli policemen on horseback and on the roof of their mini-bus from the riots in Nazareth

Maguire conviction unsafe, says inquiry

By Stewart Tessler, Crime Correspondent

NEW forensic tests by a professor of analytical chemistry have made the convictions of the Maguire seven unsafe and unsatisfactory 14 years after their trial, the judicial inquiry by Sir John May, the former appeal court judge, into the Guildford and Maguire cases was told yesterday.

The new evidence was given by Mr David Clarke QC, leading counsel to the inquiry, on the first day of hearings into the forensic evidence which convicted the seven of possession of nitro-glycerine. He said the new evidence meant that the seven could have been innocently contaminated with nitro-glycerine.

If the inquiry accepts the evidence the way will be open eventually for the quashing of convictions in a case which sprang directly from the Guildford bomb investigations. The six surviving defendants may join the freed Guildford four in seeking very substantial damages from the Home Office.

During the next weeks the inquiry will hear details of the forensic evidence, which was the mainstay of the Crown, as lawyers and scientists are examined. There will also be questions about the thoroughness of police forensic searches.

Yesterday a number of the defendants attended the inquiry at the New Connaught Rooms, Covent Garden, as Mr Clarke made his opening submissions. In a joint statement earlier the defendants, who were given custodial sentences of up to 14 years, said that they hoped that the inquiry would restore their good names and reputations. "The judicial inquiry means a great deal to us. All we ask for now and all we have ever asked for is that the truth be told. We told the truth in 1974 and we were not believed."

"We do not seek the punishment of others as we were punished. We do not seek vilification as we were vilified. We seek only what we have always sought. The truth, and through truth, justice."

Fall report, page 3

More die as violence spreads across Israel

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

THE tidal wave of violence sparked by the murder of seven Arab workers on Sunday surged on yesterday when three Palestinians were killed in clashes with Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip and protests erupted in Arab towns inside Israel proper.

Last night the Arab states at the United Nations demanded an immediate emergency session of the UN Security Council and Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary General, condemned the violence and called for "appropriate steps to be taken to enable the Palestinians to feel secure".

In Gaza yesterday, troop reinforcements were out in strength but Palestinians defied curfews to demonstrate. A woman was killed at Khan Younis, a teenage girl died in Gaza City, and a youth was killed at Rafiah. "The hour of retribution has arrived," the leaders of the uprising claimed in a leaflet.

The violence spilled into normally peaceful Arab towns in Israel such as Nazareth, where thousands of young

people took to the streets. In a Jerusalem suburb, a Jewish restaurant owner was stabbed to death by his employees and the fundamentalist Islamic Jihad said it was responsible.

In the Jordanian capital of Amman, an Arab firing a pistol approached French tourists emerging from a tour bus. As the tourists ran back to the coach he followed and fired twice before slashing at the passengers with a knife, wounding eight.

In Lebanon, Israeli helicopters hovered over the zone bordering Israel and foot patrols combed the hills and valleys for guerrillas. Thousands of Palestinians poured out of refugee camps to join the demonstration against the massacre. A spokesman for Islamic Jihad cried "blood for blood" and said his group would return "violence with more violence".

Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Labour Party leader, yesterday said all Israelis were ashamed of the murder of seven migrant Arab workers by a deranged Israeli Jew at Rishon le Zion. He blamed

the refusal of Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, to accept American peace plans for the Middle East.

President Herzog said the riots were a natural reaction to the killings, but he insisted that the Rishon le Zion murderer had been crazy. The alleged killer was named yesterday as Ami Propper, aged 21, and was remanded in custody for psychiatric tests.

Claims that the Rishon le Zion killer was crazy were yesterday dismissed by almost all Arabs. The Prime Minister of Jordan, Mr Mudar Badran, said the Israeli authorities were "authorities of terror", and a Lebanese fundamentalist Islamic leader Mr Husain Musawi warned that Sunday's killings could have a negative effect on the fate of Western hostages.

American officials said they were disturbed by the level of Palestinian deaths and appealed for restraint. Mr Douglas Hurd, the British Foreign Secretary, criticized Israeli intransigence.

Revolt spills out, page 9

Romania 'old guard' landslide

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

WITH more than three million votes counted in the Romanian elections by early last night, Mr Ion Iliescu, the National Salvation Front candidate for president and a former senior Communist Party official, appeared to be heading for a bigger landslide victory than predicted in the exit poll conducted by the West German Infas organization and released soon after voting ended.

Last night's figures from the official Electoral Bureau gave Mr Iliescu 89.3 per cent of the votes counted. Mr Radu Campeanu of the centre-right National Liberal Party had 7.8 per cent and Mr Ion Ratiu, candidate for the right-wing National Peasant Party, had only 2.3 per cent.

The West German exit poll, which was conducted among 16,000 voters in 252 locations, gave Mr Iliescu 83 per cent, Mr Campeanu 11 per cent and Mr Ratiu only 6 per cent.

Securitate grip, page 10
Leading article, page 15
Flawed not fraud, page 24

Close finish to yacht race

The two leaders in the Whitbread Round The World yacht race are a few minutes apart as they battle the final miles into the wind and Southampton Water this morning. Satellite tracking gave Peter Blake's *Silene* a 2.6 six-minute edge over his fellow New Zealander Grant Dalton in Fisher and Paykel. Page 24

Race report, page 44

Jail reform call

The practice of "stopping out" in jails should be ended before the turn of the century, Judge Tumm, Chief Inspector of Prisons, recommends. Page 2

Hope for driver

Criminal charges against the British lorry driver accused of smuggling part of an alleged Iraqi supergun into Greece should be dismissed, a Greek prosecutor said. Page 3

Cost of crime

Crime costs British businesses more than £5 billion a year, according to the Confederation of British Industry. Page 4

Kashmir deaths

Kashmir was plunged into violence in which 27 died after the assassination of Mirwaiz Maulvi Farooq, a leading political and religious figure in Srinagar. Page 9

Loans slower

Lending by banks and building societies last month showed the lowest monthly increase for almost three years. Page 25

Plan stumped

County cricket clubs have rejected a proposal to increase the number of four-day championship matches from six to eight. Page 44

INDEX

Arts	21-22
Business	25-31
Court & Social	18
Crosswords	17-24
Law	32-33
Leading articles	15
Letters	15
Obituary	16
Parliament	7
Sport	40-44
TV & Radio	23
Weather	24

Thatcher 'to back radical manifesto'

By Our Chief Political Correspondent

THE Prime Minister has convinced sympathetic Conservative MPs and ministers that she is determined to fight the next election on a radical manifesto whose proposals are likely to include a far-reaching reorganization of local government.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher's nerve and enthusiasm for the forthcoming political battle surprised members of No Turning Back, the influential Thatcherite group which includes several ministers, when she attended a private meeting at the Institute of Economic Affairs last week.

The exchanges, taken with the appointment of Mr John Wakeham last week to take charge of government publicity and presentation, has increased speculation among MPs that Mrs Thatcher is

actively pondering the possibility of an election next summer, even though the prevailing view among Cabinet ministers remains that it may have to wait until the following year.

It has been confirmed that Mrs Thatcher is to take charge of preparations for drawing up the manifesto. According to several MPs present at the meeting, Mrs Thatcher was clearly disappointed that the group, some of whose proposals including those on education found their way into the last Tory manifesto, had not yet drawn up their "shopping list" for the next election.

As a result the group is formulating proposals which it believes will attract Mrs Thatcher, and she has asked to

Continued on page 24, col 7

Greedy guns must learn to play the game

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

PROMPTED by tales of shotgun-wielding businessmen blasting hundreds of wild duck, grouse and pheasant out of the sky at corporate entertainment shoots, the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC), guardian of shooting etiquette, has issued a code of conduct to try to curb excessive slaughter. The association, Britain's largest game-shooting body, believes that commercial pressure on gamekeepers to produce big bags for shooting syndicates and corporate entertainment parties is bringing the sport into disrepute.

Despite agitation from the anti-blood sports lobby, gameshooting has grown steadily in popularity. In the past eight years membership of BASC has risen from 51,000 to 105,000, and the number

of now almost entirely hand-reared pheasants shot annually is up from 4.4 million to more than 12 million.

Last year BASC, together with the British Field Sports Society and the Game Conservancy, issued a new code of good shooting practice. Now it has provoked a stir in shooting circles by going further and issuing precise guidelines on stocking levels and, even more controversially, by recommending that shooters should be encouraged to see a bag of 500 birds in a day as "more than enough for anyone".

"Over-stocking can make a shoot resemble a chicken run, which is undesirable from both a sporting and an aesthetic viewpoint," Mr John Ruxton, chairman of the association, said. "The guidelines also tackle the problem of how often to shoot a drive - over-shooting can cause unacceptable disturbance

to other wildlife. Where hand-reared birds are released, conditions should try to mimic the natural state as closely as possible. An overstocked shoot makes the sport very artificial. A property treated pheasant will soon establish natural cunning and become a sporting proposition."

The association's maximum recommended stocking densities for pheasants ranges from five an acre to three depending on terrain, even none on permanent pasture, managed grassland and cover open to stock.

Stocking levels for partridges should not exceed four birds an acre, and on large farm reservoirs and lakes there should not be more than 250 ducks for every acre of water, the association says. If these limits are observed, it believes, the question of bag size should regulate itself.

Moscow poised to double food prices

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

SOVIET consumers will face price rises of between 100 and 200 per cent on many staple foods if an economic rescue plan is approved. New prices on such basics as bread, milk and sugar are scheduled to come into force early next year, once a system of social safety nets is in place.

Details of the proposed rises were contained in a summary of the government programme obtained yesterday by the news agency Interfax. The programme is expected to go before the Presidential Council today and be presented to the Supreme Soviet on Thursday or Friday.

According to Interfax, the Government is proposing a three-stage economic reform. The first stage will lay the legislative basis and should be completed by the end of this

year. The main price changes will be enacted early next year, along with a new tax system, to include a progressive income tax, new taxes on enterprises and compensation payments to those on low incomes. The third stage will entail a gradual decrease in state involvement in the economy, as competition is encouraged.

The scale of the proposed increases for staple goods will horrify many Soviet citizens, who are used to prices that have not changed substantially in many cases since the 1920s and 1930s. Interfax said the average price rise would be 110 per cent, price of fish is set to rise by 150 per cent, milk prices will double, and bread prices will triple.

Gorbachev pension, page 10

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Rifkind had 'no advance warning' on Ravenscraig mill closure

By Nicholas Wood
Political Correspondent

SIR Robert Scholey, chairman of British Steel, gave Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, no advance warning of the company's plans to close the Ravenscraig strip mill at a private meeting held 12 days before the announcement.

That disclosure yesterday by Mr Rifkind in a Commons debate took some steam out of the Opposition onslaught on him for being a "passive spectator" in the affair, which poses an immediate threat to 770 jobs in Motherwell and casts a shadow over the long-term future of the plant. It also served to underline the divisions that have opened

up between Mr Rifkind and the senior management of British Steel, already strained by his attack on the company for not providing figures to back the case for closure.

Yesterday in the Commons, Mr Rifkind said that he still wants British Steel to change its mind, but he added that a "contingency plan" is being drawn up by the Scottish Office, the Scottish Development Agency and local authorities to find alternative employment for those affected if the closure goes ahead next year.

It is understood that Mr Rifkind feels "let down" by Sir Robert's failure to forewarn him about a decision with far-reaching political and economic reper-

cussions in Scotland. While setting out the facts of his department's contacts with British Steel, Mr Rifkind refrained from any direct criticism of Sir Robert.

The secretary of state has been under sustained pressure from Labour since last Wednesday for allegedly failing to forestall British Steel's move. He has also been under attack from English Tories for seeking to substitute his own commercial judgement for that of a private company. With the Prime Minister and other senior Cabinet ministers, however, formally supporting his stance yesterday, his position seemed stronger.

Yesterday, Mr Donald Dewar, the shadow Scottish secretary, pressed home the Opposition assault, accusing him of

pursuing an "unsound strategy" through his prolonged inactivity.

Mr Rifkind said that the suggestion that the Scottish Office had had no contacts with the company over the past few months was "completely bogus".

There had been "frequent" telephone contacts between Scottish Office officials and British Steel both at plant manager and chief executive level, he said. Three weeks ago, he had asked Sir Robert to discuss with him a Scottish Office paper on plate steel investment.

"He replied that he was willing to do so but particularly wished to see me on May 15 as his board was meeting the previous day. He wished to inform me before anyone else of decisions likely to

be taken by his board. I asked him to come and see me before the board meeting. We had an informal meeting on May 3. He gave me information at that time as to the proposals likely to be put to his board."

Mr Rifkind did tell Sir Robert that he would oppose any decision to close the strip mill. "I made clear to him that if the board was to consider the future of the hot strip mill, I very much hoped, given its contribution to British Steel's profitability it would not be closed, as that would have implications for Ravenscraig as a whole, and that I would find it necessary to express my views in the event of such an announcement."

Mr Rifkind yesterday joined Mr

Tommy Brennan, the Ravenscraig shop stewards' convenor, in backing the workers' determination to save the plant from closure (Kerry Gill writes).

It is widely considered that the whole plant could close within four years unless either British Steel is persuaded to change its mind or Ravenscraig is sold to a new buyer.

After meeting Mr Rifkind in Edinburgh, Mr Brennan praised the stance he was taking and said: "We are not here to support a lame duck. We are here saying that Ravenscraig is a viable plant. It is consistently performing at 2.33 man hours per tonne, the best within the whole of Europe, and probably alongside the best in the world."

TED BATH

Over 1,000 inmates write to riot inquiry

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

THE official inquiry into the Strangeways jail riot and its aftermath has received more than 1,000 letters from prisoners anxious to explain why the disturbances occurred and to propose remedies.

By the time the inquiry's second phase opens in October, possibly thousands more inmates will have made written submissions to the inquiry headed by Lord Justice Woolf. The judge, who started the Home Office when he announced that he would be inviting every prison officer and inmate to say what was wrong with Britain's prisons, was said last night to be delighted.

About 600 of the 2,800 inmates at the six jails affected by last month's riots have written to the inquiry team explaining why they felt their prisons were involved. Another 400 have written about the service's broader problems. Some 600 staff have also written to the inquiry.

Prisoners and staff were told that written submissions to the inquiry's first phase - in which Lord Justice Woolf hopes to construct a detailed picture of the riots at Dartmoor, Manchester, Bristol, Cardiff, Glen Parva and Pucklechurch prisons - had to be made by yesterday evening. Letters for the second stage must arrive by September 1.

The Prison Reform Trust said it was pleased so many prisoners had written. "It is vitally important that the prisoners' voice is one of the loudest to be heard."

Two men released recently had been identified as rioters at Strangeways, Manchester magistrates were told yesterday.

Mr Bernard Donnelly, for the prosecution, said David Bowen, aged 26, and Yuri Harewood, aged 29, were the first to be charged in regard to the unrest. Both were remanded in custody until May 29, accused of riot by using or threatening unlawful violence.

Officers 'locked themselves in cell during prison riot'

TWO prison officers, fearing for their lives, locked themselves in a cell while rioting inmates tried to batter down the door, Liverpool Crown Court was told yesterday.

The officers were rescued when prison staff at Risley remand centre in Cheshire smashed through the brickwork from outside the third-floor cell, Mr Maurice Kay, QC, for the prosecution, said. Twenty inmates deny charges of riot and criminal damage after the three-day disturbance in May last year, which Mr Kay said caused £250,000 damage.

Mr Kay said Mr Ian Frith and Mr Ian Hardy were isolated on the top floor of D wing when trouble broke out on the floor below on May 1. Violence erupted on the top floor where they were on duty, fearing that they may be taken hostage and that their lives were at risk, they locked themselves in a cell at the end of the wing, Mr Kay said.

Doors were torn off and used as battering rams, brick

Prisons chief urges firm date to end slopping-out

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

MINISTERS were urged yesterday by Judge Tumim, Chief Inspector of Prisons, to set a firm date, before the decade ended, to end the "humiliation" of slopping out in jails.

He said it was "desperately important" that the Home Office took up his challenge, as installing internal sanitation in cells was necessary to achieve broader improvements in the penal system. Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, promised last week that 75 per cent of cells would have their own lavatories by 1994 but refused to guarantee that slopping-out would be abolished entirely by 2000.

Judge Tumim, one of the two judges heading the government-appointed inquiry into the recent jail riots, told the Prison Officers Association's annual conference in Portsmouth "It is much more important that it sounds to have a date now, by this century, for the ending of slopping-out. Until that is done, it seems to me that morale will continue to suffer."

He said creating a more stable and useful service in the long term depended on increasing activities for inmates. "Although I'm appalled about the state of sanitation, although I'm distressed by the overcrowding, it is above all the lack of occupation, of sensible training that worries me most of all."

The judge praised the union for pressing the Home Office to establish legally enforceable minimum standards covering prison conditions, such as exist in the United States. It was crucial that any such code was statutory. "If you have standards they have to be enforced by the courts," he

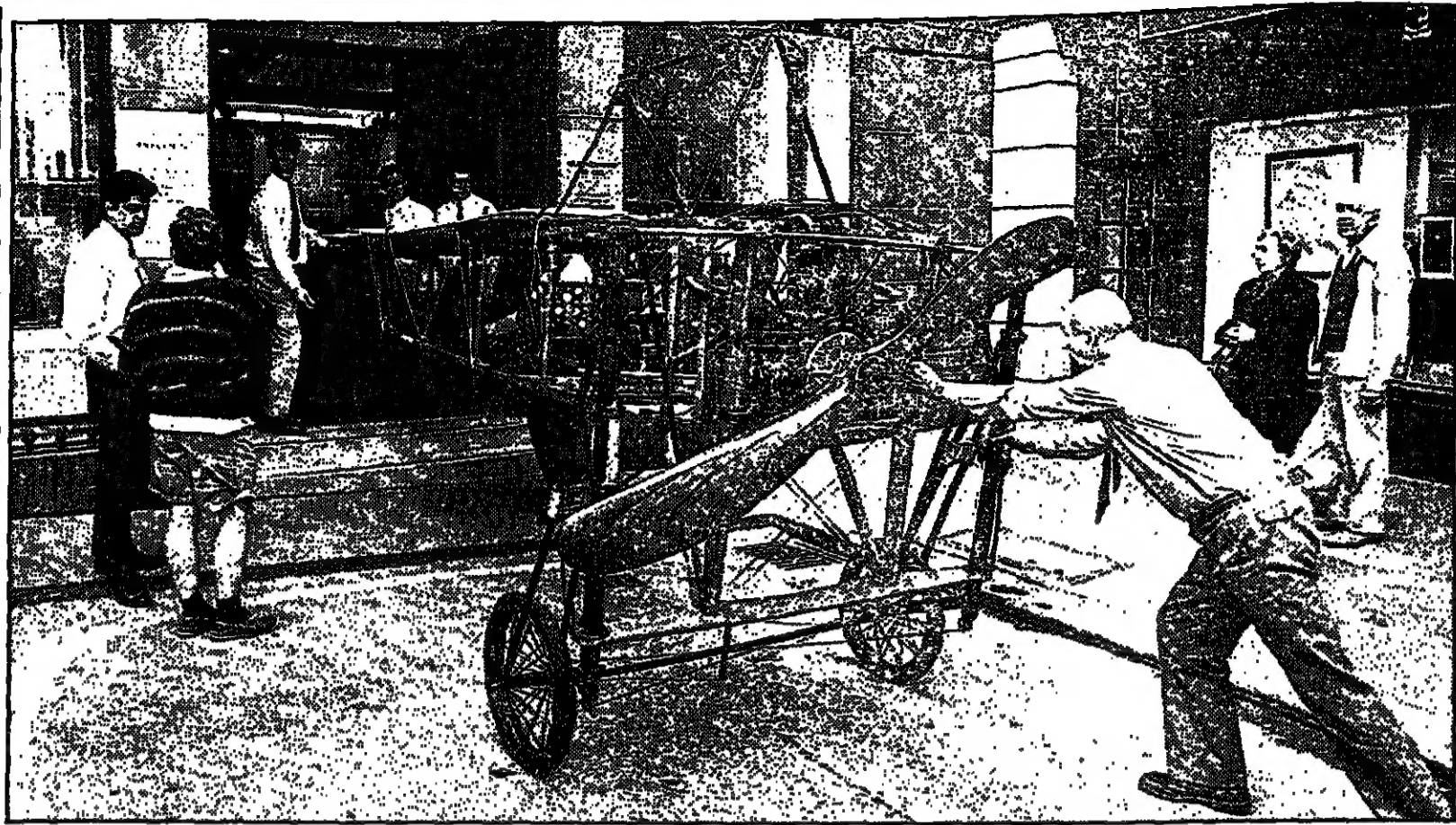
told delegates. However, it would be foolish to create a code before curing fundamental inadequacies, including the lack of decent sanitation. "Bluntly, you can't have minimum standards without drains."

Judge Tumim, whose views carry considerable weight at the Home Office, though he is often critical of penal conditions, said he was anxious about the affect stress was having on prison officers and governors.

He expressed the hope, which seems likely to be fulfilled, that inmates should be held at Strangeways prison while the £60 million refurbishment was carried out after the riot at the Manchester prison. He said: "I would like to see some prisoners kept there, if only to show the world that Manchester was not broken in any way by what happened."

It has emerged that the union banned the Home Office from sending formal observers to the conference, which began yesterday. Mr John Bartell, the union's chairman, said it appeared management wanted to hear first-hand the warnings the union had been given for the past three years. Earlier, he had told delegates that the Home Office wanted to drive a wedge between the union's leaders and members.

Mr Bartell said at a press conference that there had been a complete breakdown in the Prison Service's industrial relations. "We have no confidence in the management of the service." The conference comes on the eve of a ballot of the union's 24,000 members over industrial action in support of claims of prison staff shortages.



A rebuilt 1909 Blériot, to be auctioned in aid of the RAF Benevolent Fund, with its wings clipped to get through Phillips' front door yesterday

Third cat studied for BSE links

By Michael Horsaby
Agriculture Correspondent

VETERINARY scientists are conducting a post-mortem on the brain of a third cat suspected of having died from a disorder similar to the "mad cow" disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), which has killed more than 13,400 cattle.

The cat, from Derby, showed "nervous symptoms" before being put down. The case has been referred to the Government's Central Veterinary Laboratory in Weybridge, Surrey, which earlier this month diagnosed a case of spongiform encephalopathy in a Bristol cat. Brain tissue from a Belfast cat, suspected by pathologists in Northern Ireland of having succumbed to the same disease, is also being examined by the

Weybridge laboratory. It may be several weeks before a definite diagnosis is possible.

Ministry of Agriculture officials said yesterday that there was no necessary link between the form the illness took in cats and BSE. Nervous symptoms can have other causes and it is also possible that a naturally occurring spongiform encephalopathy may have existed unnoticed for years in the cat population.

Vets all over Britain have been alerted to look out for the nervous behaviour and lack of limb coordination that is symptomatic of spongiform encephalopathy and to refer animals that do not respond to treatment and have to be put down to Weybridge for post mortems.

There is speculation that the cats could have got the disease via pet food containing offal from BSE-infected cattle

or scrapie-infected sheep (scrapie being the ovine form of spongiform encephalopathy). Cattle are believed to have been infected by eating feed concentrate containing sheep protein.

The vulnerability of cattle to infection is thought to have been increased by the fact that they are grass-eating by nature. Cats, however, are carnivores and there is nothing particularly unusual in their being fed on animal protein.

Scientists are uncertain whether human beings, which appear to be immune to scrapie in sheep, could be infected by eating BSE-infected meat. Earlier this month, a long-term programme was launched to monitor the incidence of the rare human version of spongiform encephalopathy, Creutzfeldt-Jakob Dementia, for any sign that it might be increasing as a result of exposure to BSE.

Lockerbie defence by airline

Pan-Am could not have prevented the Lockerbie disaster in 1988, Mr Peter McHugh, a senior vice-president of the airline, said in London yesterday. Pan-Am took exception to the "unfair treatment" it had received in last week's critical US Presidential Commission report on the bombing, he said.

He disagreed that Pan-Am could have done something to prevent the bombing of flight 103, killing 270. Mr McHugh said: "I don't think there is anything that could have been done that day at the airport to stop that bomb getting on board."

Gas cooker risk

A survey by Trading Standards Offices in Greater Manchester to be published today shows that none of the six second-hand gas cookers it tested passed safety regulations. Figures show 30 people a year die due to faulty gas cookers and an estimated 12,000 are injured.

Lowry look-out

Seven paintings by L.S. Lowry, stolen from a house in Balfour, Stirlingshire last weekend, may soon be offered on the open market, police said yesterday. The paintings, valued at £750,000, include classic subjects by the naive Midlands artist such as "Home from the Pub".

Dog fighting

Thirty men and a boy aged 15, most from the north of England, appeared at Kirkcaldy Sheriff Court, Fife, yesterday, charged in connection with alleged offences involving illegal dog fighting. Their appearance comes after a big police operation at a farm in Kenworthy, Fife, on Sunday.

27-hour charity

Independent Television's "Teletext", a 27-hour charity programme, begins on Sunday at 7pm. Celebrities and the general public will raise money for charities to support old people, children, disabled people, their carers and regional special needs. The 1988 event raised £23 million.

Flight delays

Flights from British airports to Greece are expected to be severely delayed today by a 24-hour strike of Olympic Airways flight and passenger handling staff at Greek airports that began last night.

Not cricket

John Whibley, a cricket captain, poured sodium chlorate crystals over the square of his club, GFC Alsthorpe at Stafford, when he was dropped. Stafford magistrates were told yesterday. The pitch was unusable for weeks. Whibley, aged 36, was fined £150 after admitting criminal damage.

Pleasure dome remains pile of rubble

By David Young

MRS Thatcher did not turn up and trumpets did not sound. In fact, it was all rather dismal at 2.30pm at Battersea Power Station yesterday when the massive monument to British electrical engineering was due to be officially opened as a pleasure dome for future generations of Londoners.

Instead, the pigeons quietly roosted among the rubble from which Mr John Broome, creator of the very successful Alton Towers, had planned an oceanarium and Disneyland-style attractions. At least, the sun was shining, even if it was frequently hidden by clouds of dust blown up from the derelict landscape.

Local protesters to the project provided their own version of Mrs Thatcher, but attractive as she was she lacked that certain something. The project was launched in 1988 by Mrs Thatcher, who described Mr Broome as a "man of enterprise and vision". She had agreed officially to open the new leisure centre yesterday at precisely 2.30 when,

in 1988, she said: "This colossal undertaking has that touch of pure genius, tinged with English eccentricity, that has always made Britain great."

Mr Broome had told people to be on time for the ceremony. "If your five minutes late you'll miss it," he said.

Over the past two years the scheme has lurched from problem to problem and at 2.30pm the Prime Minister was across the Thames at the Chelsea Flower Show. The roof is now off the power station, one wall has been removed and there is talk locally of it being converted into a mosque.

Mr Broome has been forced by Security Pacific, the bank which led the syndicate to finance the project, to sell Alton Towers to the Pearson Group for £60 million in March to meet debt payments. The Alton Group, Mr Broome's private company, has submitted a planning application with the Dutch private company ICA Holdings to develop the site and two adjoining parcels of land, one owned by Orni

Holdings, the other by British Rail. The original leisure centre plans remain part of the new scheme but the new application includes the addition of two 22-storey hotels, 1.25 million square feet of office space, 64,000 square feet of shopping and a 750,000 square foot exhibition and conference centre. The plans have yet to be considered by Wandsworth council's planning committee, which is conducting an inquiry into the increased traffic that the proposed scheme will create.

The planning committee will also be presented with an application from the Battersea Power Station Community Group, which proposes setting up a local charitable trust that will use the existing structure and would house a residential area, sporting and recreation areas, a museum and industrial workshops. Mr Brian Barnes, the group chairman, said: "John Broome's scheme is failing to materialize. The doubt that has always been present about the future of the power station is ever increasing."

cent is at the weekends. Top of the list for viewing are comedy, news and current affairs and documentaries.

Television advertisers are most likely to catch their attention as 40 per cent prefer television advertisements to newspaper (20 per cent) and radio (18 per cent) and these television commercials bring new products to the attention of 84 per cent and 65 per cent find them entertaining.

Business people tend to be very busy with nearly 35 per cent reaching home after 7.30 pm. However, they know how to relax by taking several holidays each year. Two holidays a year is the habit of 36 per cent of those questioned, while 37 per cent take three or more a year.

The favourite destinations abroad are France, Spain and the United States. To finance these regular trips abroad the average salary is £28,000. However, they also take precautions and save with 80 per cent investing their money in a building society. Their other popular investments are in endowment assurance (63 per cent) and ordinary shares (60 per cent).

Union welcomes social charter deal

By Tim Jones, Employment Correspondent

A COMPANY that is bringing the European social charter to Britain by allowing workers on the company board said yesterday that it had talked to four different trade unions before signing a single-union deal with the GMB general union.

The deal, which will lead to the West German car seat manufacturers Keiper Recaro investing £7 million to create 300 jobs at Birmingham city council's Woodgate Valley industrial estate, will enable the union representatives to know five years in advance about any restructuring plans.

Union members will retain the right to strike, but both sides hope the deal will set the pace for industrial relations for the rest of the decade. Mr Geoff Wheatley, the GMB regional secretary, said: "The company has a good reputation in West Germany for

employment policies, and has a particularly impressive record on maternity provision. We hope it will put pressure on other employers to recognize the provisions of the Social Charter."

The agreement will also allow workers' councils to discuss terms and conditions and grievances and to set one rate for a job throughout plants irrespective of age or sex.

The Institute of Directors said it had not objection to workers on company boards so long as they were there by agreement and not by statutory imposition. The institute also questioned whether a uniform rate for the job would achieve the desired results. It said: "We believe that rewarding people for individual performance or negotiating personal contracts is more desirable."



Mr Chris Price, director of Leeds Polytechnic, and local children getting the hang of new equipment at the opening of White City adventure playground, west London, yesterday. The equipment has been made by a company which is providing bursaries for a diploma in playwork at the polytechnic

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Maguire bomb plant rulings unsafe, QC says

By Stewart Tiedler, Crime Correspondent

NEW forensic evidence has made the conviction of the seven defendants in the Annie Maguire bomb factory case 14 years ago unsafe and unsatisfactory, Mr David Clarke, QC, leading counsel to a judicial inquiry, said yesterday.

If the inquiry led by Sir John May, the former Court of Appeal judge, accepts counsel's submission the Maguire convictions could be quashed. That would mean the overturning of a second IRA terrorist case from the 1970s within the space of seven months and increase pressure for action on the case of the six men convicted for the Birmingham bombings.

Speaking on the opening day of the full inquiry, set up to examine the Maguire and the Guildford Four cases, Mr Clarke said tests carried out for the inquiry by a professor of analytical chemistry questioned the Crown's claim that forensic tests showed the Maguire group had all handled nitro-glycerine.

Nothing suggested that the tests could have been positive for any substance other than three explosives, but the defendants could have been contaminated by someone who had handled explosives, visited the Maguire home in north London and used a bathroom towel. Mr Clarke said: "There was substantially greater scope for such contamination of hands and gloves than the evidence of the Crown witnesses at the trial (which must have been accepted by the jury) suggested. In particular the assertion that each male defendant must have manipulated or kneaded a primary source of contamination, that is, a quantity or bulk of explosive, is not borne out by subsequent investigations."

Whoever did touch explosive might not be one of the defendants, Mr Clarke said. It was quite impossible to conclude that anyone or more of the seven defendants could be implicated.

The case against the seven might also be considered unsafe and unsatisfactory because technically the Crown could not prove the explosive involved was nitro-glycerine, as the charges suggested, but another explosive called PETN.

Mr Clarke also raised questions about evidence apparently never passed to the defence, which might have raised questions about circumstantial evidence brought by the Crown.

Yesterday five of the six surviving Maguire defendants were at the inquiry to hear Mr Clarke make his submissions as the inquiry began three to four weeks of evidence on the forensic details which led to sentences of up to 14 years at the Central Criminal Court in 1976.

Mr Clarke said the Maguire defendants had been included in the inquiry's remit because Mrs Maguire was first implicated by statements from two of the Guildford Four, Mr Gerry Conlon and Mr Paul Hill. Police arrested and charged Mrs Maguire, her husband Patrick, two of her sons, Vincent and Patrick, her brother, Sean Smith, Giuseppe Conlon (her husband's brother-in-law and the father of Gerry Conlon), and Patrick O'Neill, a friend.

The key to the trial lay with forensic scientists and evidence gathered with a technique known as thin-layer chromatography (TLC), which showed the six men had traces of explosive on their hands or fingerprints; plastic gloves used by Mrs Maguire also showed explosive traces.

Mr Clarke said the prosecution case included some circumstantial evidence which did not constitute "evidence of either the existence of any quantity or bulk of explosive or of control of or of possession by any of the defendants". But a prosecution witness, Mr Walter Elliott, from the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment, said the traces on the defendants' hands were from touching and manipulating, kneading explosive.

The inquiry asked Professor Duncan Thornburn Burns of Queen's University to carry out tests last month on the TLC system and the issue of contamination. The professor found that the TLC tests carried by the establishment over 15 years ago were done properly and produced no result other than that nitro-glycerine and two other explosives, of which PETN was more significant.

The professor then considered contamination. At the trial four of the defendants said they had used towels in the bathroom of the Maguire's house. Professor Thornburn Burns kneaded a cartridge of explosive, washed his hands, drying them on a clean towel used by others.

Others who handled the items were then tested by both the TLC system and a more modern technique. The results showed that nitro-glycerine on hands can contaminate fingerprints and those with traces had not touched the original explosive.

The inquiry continues today.



Damien Bruce, aged six, who has epilepsy, hand in hand with famous epileptics Julius Caesar (actor Moray Watson) and Napoleon (David Neville) at the launch in the City yesterday of Epilepsy Week. The society says that children at risk of severe epilepsy are not being diagnosed or treated properly and that many of the 50,000 children with the condition suffer because of a lack of sophisticated brain scanning equipment

World Cup ban for convicted hooligans

By Staff Reporters

A GROUP of Bolton Wanderers soccer fans who indulged in planned hooliganism against police and rival supporters have been banned from the World Cup by the Italian government.

Liverpool Crown Court was told that the names of the 34 men had been sent to the Italian authorities who had indicated that they would not be welcome. Nine of them were given prison or youth custody sentences of between 18 months and three years.

Mr John Jackson, for the prosecution, said the courts had powers under the Football Spectator's Act 1989 to ban convicted hooligans from specified matches outside the United Kingdom, but since they did not exist at the time of the offences he was not seeking such an order. "But the names and addresses of those convicted have been sent to the Italian authorities and they have indicated that such people will not be welcome during the World Cup."

The successful prosecution of Bolton Wanderers soccer hooligans, who spread violence and vandalism under such sobriquets as the Tonge Moor Slashers, the Astley Bridge Mob and the Billy Whizz Fan Club, was being hailed by the police and solicitors last night as a landmark after earlier disastrous attempts to bring football gangs to court.

Sentencing the men, Judge Donald Hart, QC, described them as "not football supporters but football destroyers". There was no evidence that they had carried offensive weapons, but they had used casual weapons like bricks, timber and pub ashtrays.

If such behaviour was seen as the norm "it will follow as night follows day that decent, respectable people will regard football grounds and their facilities as no-go areas. People who have that as their enjoyment will be deprived of it. Football clubs will find their income declining. Quite apart from the dispute it brings to the game, it will wither away from lack of people attending it."

The heaviest sentence - three years in a young offenders' institution - was passed on Steven Green, aged 19, of Millbeck Grove, Great Lever, Bolton, who admitted three charges of conspiracy to commit affray, two of affray, one of violent disorder and one of wounding. Green was also banned from soccer grounds for five years.

Stephen Ormerod, aged 27, of Ashworth Lane, Bolton, was jailed for 32 months and banned from grounds for five years. He admitted five charges. Kevin Taylor, aged 23, a packer, of Le Gendre Street, Bolton, who admitted four charges, received a two-year sentence and a four-year ban.

Others sentenced received community service orders of 75 hours or 95 hours, £400 fines, and bans of one year. The judge will continue sentencing other defendants today.

Iraqi gun driver's charges reduced

By Tom Giles

A GREEK appeals court prosecutor yesterday recommended that criminal charges against the British lorry driver accused of smuggling parts of an alleged Iraqi "super-gun" into Greece be dismissed.

Lawyers representing the driver, Mr Paul Ashwell, said the decision by the prosecutor, Mr Nikos Tourioupis, was binding and could lead to the early release of their client. Mr Ashwell was detained on April 21 by Greek customs officers on charges of smuggling arms and munitions.

Mr Alexandros Lykourazos, his solicitor, said the prosecutor had recommended that the charges, which carry a maximum sentence of 20 years, be reduced to that of a misdemeanour. "The prosecutor said there was no evidence that our client knew what he was hauling."

He added that a panel of three judges would consider the case within the next two days. They would either recommend Mr Ashwell be tried for a misdemeanour or dismiss the case. In Greece, a misdemeanour carries a prison term of between six months and two years and the option of paying a fine.

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "The prosecutor argues that there is insufficient evidence that Mr Ashwell knew what he was carrying. Indeed he says there is evidence to the contrary, that he did not know what he was carrying."

Mr Ashwell, aged 26, from Northampton, was originally held in detention after British officials told Greek customs officers in the western port of Patras that the 30-ton steel tube on his lorry could be part of a giant artillery gun ordered by Iraq. He was released 10 days ago on £19,000 bail raised by a British newspaper. He is in Patras with his wife awaiting court proceedings.

M1 jury asked: was crew reckless?

By Harvey Elliot, Air Correspondent

THE inquest jury that must decide what caused the deaths of 47 people on board the British Midland airliner that crashed on the M1 in January last year was told yesterday that it must first consider a verdict of unlawful killing.

Mr Philip Tomlinson, the North Leicestershire coroner, said that was one of three possible verdicts, and the one that must be considered first. The other two were accidental death and an open verdict.

In his four-and-a-half-hour summing up, Mr Tomlinson reminded the jury of seven men and five women how the serviceable right-hand engine of the Boeing 737-400 had been shut down after passengers, cabin crew and the pilots had smelled smoke and heard and felt a severe vibration. He spoke of how a fan blade snapped in the new engine, of the problems some experts said could exist in changing from old "needle" instruments to modern solid-state displays, of a whip of smoke that led Captain Kevin Hunt to believe the problem was in the right-hand engine, and of the co-pilot Mr David McClelland's belief that the instruments must have indicated that the problem was in the right-hand engine before he shut it down.

Flying on one engine was a normal abnormal event and one for which the crew had been trained. All witnesses agreed that throttling back and shutting down the left-hand engine would have allowed the jet to have landed safely at East Midlands airport on only one engine.

"Were the actions of the crew in responding to that initial fan failure the determining factor in causing the crash?" Mr Tomlinson asked. If the jury took that view, there were three possible verdicts.

"In the context of this case unlawfully killed means manslaughter. You will know that this is a most serious matter. It

is this potential possible verdict that you must consider first of all. For such a verdict to be returned, the coroner said, one person had to have been grossly negligent or to have acted recklessly. A simple error or inadvertence would not be enough.

"You may only return such a verdict if you can attribute the necessary ingredients that I have pointed out to you to one of the crew members who should not be named." He warned the jury that the law imposes a particularly high standard of proof for such a verdict and that they must be sure before doing so.

"You may think that what you have to decide is whether the closure of the right instead of the left-hand engine arose from gross recklessness on the part of one or other of the cockpit crew. You may think that there is a clear responsibility and duty upon the crew to deal with an emergency situation and that the paramount regard shall be to the passengers." They were dealing with an emergency that they had never encountered before and one that did not, to them, evolve

slowly but which clearly required action by them to respond to something that was not of their making.

"Does the evidence lead you to a conclusion that the crew were or might have been wrongly directed or misled or might have been misdirected to the right-hand engine, as opposed to the left, or is it the case that one or other or both of the cockpit crew were grossly negligent or reckless in the terms I have described to you? If you conclude that the crew were or might have been wrongly directed or misled by instrumentation then the verdict of unlawfully killed is not open to you."

In that case, the jury might return a verdict of accidental death. An accident, the coroner said, was something that "you and I sometimes cause or sustain" and which may or may not involve "an error, misjudgement or inadvertence". The last possible verdict was an open verdict, which should be returned only if there was insufficient evidence to reach one of the others.

The jury will be sent to consider its verdict today.

Timeshare firms face legal curbs

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

NEW laws to regulate the activities of timeshare developers will be called for in proposals coming before the International Bar Association at its conference of world Bar leaders this week.

The package is aimed at giving buyers greater protection while not "unduly burdening developers", and comes amid mounting criticism of some timeshare developers who promote the industry through unsolicited mailshots.

If adopted at the conference in Venice, the proposals will mean increased pressure for legislation in all of the association's member states. Lawyers would adopt a uniform international code of practice on selling and managing timeshare units worldwide and then press for domestic legislation.

The Office of Fair Trading is expected to produce a report urging legislation to curb unscrupulous techniques. The new proposals have been drawn up by a group of international lawyers specializing in travel, tourism and property law.

Advert lands in hot water

By Craig Lord

SWIMMING safety experts have criticized British Gas for an advertisement showing a baby swimming under the sea. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) and the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) have warned parents of the dangers of babies swimming under water, particularly in light of limited research of the effects of water pressure on them.

The warning comes after a surge of interest shown in the advertisement by mothers wanting to teach their babies to swim under water. The advertisement, which promotes gas water heating, was filmed in the Red Sea and shows a baby swimming with its mother among coral.

While the scene gives the impression of a deep sea setting, British Gas says that the four babies on the film set were never more than two feet below the surface. There was also a medical team on hand. However, RoSPA and the ASA say the advertisement should have been backed by a statement informing parents of water safety precautions.

British Gas admitted that the advertisement gave the illusion of deep water and that

that could be misinterpreted by parents. It emphasized, however, that "at every step of the way we sought professional legal and medical advice and we gained ITV and IBA approval for the advert."

"At no stage were the babies deeper than two feet nor were they under the water for more than 10 seconds. The public relations company Halton Roy also undertook exhaustive research on the subject before filming began."

The ASA said: "It is wise to err on the side of caution until more is known about water pressure on babies."



Water baby and mother swimming in the Red Sea in the British Gas advertisement

Gun dealers seek right to sell arms

A FIRM of firearms auctioneers yesterday won the first round in a legal battle to win back its rare licence to sell weapons banned under the 1968 Firearms Act.

Weller and Duffy Ltd, of Bromsgrove Street, Birmingham, had the licence revoked by the Home Office earlier this year after firearms were kept outside its secure gun room. In the High Court yesterday, Mr Justice Otton granted leave to challenge that decision.

The licence had allowed the firm to keep up to 500 weapons normally banned under Section Five of the Act. The company, which says it was the only auctioneers to have had this authority, holds 10 two-day sales each year and has a turnover of about £1 million.

No date has been set for the full hearing of the case.

Gallery's coup may herald more art loans

By Simon Tait
Arts Correspondent

LORD Rothschild, who master-minded the loan of the Berggruen Collection of modern art for the National Gallery along with Mr Neil MacGregor, the gallery's director, believes the coup may be followed by further notable loans to national museums and galleries.

"It has been happening for some time, but I believe it has picked up pace recently, partly because owners are anxious about the safety of their paintings, which now have such great value on the market, and partly because they have been persuaded that the public will appreciate the chance to see them," Lord Rothschild, chairman of the trustees of the

National Gallery, said. Britain's museums and galleries are increasingly looking to loans and gifts instead of relying on buying in the marketplace where they cannot hope to compete at auction.

Mr Nicholas Serota, the director of the Tate Gallery, appealed last night for government help. "More and more of a director's and trustee's time is spent trying to persuade people to make loans, gifts or bequests, and it is extremely difficult - far more than in my predecessor's time," he said. "I believe the Government ought to make incentives available, perhaps not a full tax refund but a part of it, to encourage owners to make a commitment to national collections." National collections had, until recently,

been reluctant to accept loans, which are often made with the promise of eventual bequest.

"Along with all galleries, we have experienced a situation where the owner has reneged on the agreement after a number of years, when the price has become irresistible, and sold," Mr Serota said. The owner has by that time had the benefit of professional conservation and care, and government indemnity for an object that may cost hundreds of thousands to insure. "Now we are having to relax that view."

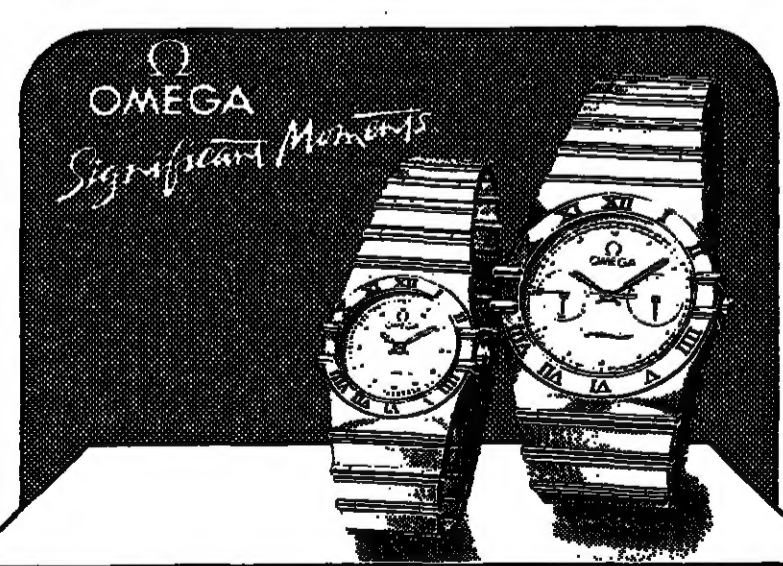
But there was also alarm among some curators at the secrecy with which the transaction was made and the extent to which the Berggruen loan, and possibly eventual bequest,

covers the Tate Gallery's agreed area of interest. The Picassos, Braques and Mirós are well out of the fields of collecting of the National Gallery. The two boards of trustees have agreed that the national should keep broadly to the 19th century, and the Tate to the modern period. Some clarification of the parameters is expected to be sought.

Two factors helped to bring off the Berggruen coup for the National Gallery: the completion of the Sainsbury Wing next spring, giving space to display modern paintings, and the nature of the gallery's collections of French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings.

Leading article, page 15

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Businesses' crime loss over £5bn every year

By Mark Sowter

CRIME costs British businesses more than £5 billion a year, more than is spent on non-military research and development, the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday.

It said many companies have failed to grasp the severity of the problem, which can wipe out half, if not all, their profits. Mr Steven Norris, Conservative MP for Epping Forest, and chairman of Crime Concern, set up by the Home Office, said the true cost to industry may be £10 billion.

The figures were disclosed at the launch in London of a joint CBI/Crime Concern report, *Crime - managing the Business Risk*, which is sponsored by the Midland Bank. It is hoped that the initiative detailed in the report will promote a greater awareness of the problem and persuade British business to invest more in crime prevention.

The report is designed to help businesses to draw up a strategy to prevent the huge losses caused by fraud, shoplifting, "shrinkage" or theft, as well as arson in shops,

factories and offices. Mr John Banham, director general of the CBI, said at the launch that an initial analysis of crime statistics by the CBI's own "fraud squad" showed that fraud in the City costs £500 million a year, and the total cost of fraud in business is £3.3 billion. Building site thefts cost £500 million a year, vandalism on British Rail £400 million and on London Transport £2 million.

Arson strikes an average of one business in 175 every year. Each week £250,000 is stolen in payroll robberies and the cost of handling wage packets is £300 million a year. Yet a quarter of the workforce is still paid in cash, against 1 per cent in France and Germany. The report argues for modern payment methods.

It says employees are losing an average £10 a week in wages; shareholders in the large retail chains, which have to pass the cost of crime on to the consumer in higher prices, are losing half the dividend they might reasonably expect. Mr Banham said as a result the US practice of shareholders suing management for professional negligence might soon come to Britain. "Crime can affect the very survival of a business. Investment in prevention is low risk and high reward. Returns are near certain," he said.

The report recommends that companies should discover how much they are losing from fraud by producing a detailed crime audit, publicize a written strategy on prevention, make crime prevention a core responsibility of all managers and train their staff in the company's crime-prevention policy. Without the right lead from the top "crime prevention is likely to remain little more than a hope, and unnecessary losses will continue to put the company's future at risk," the report says.

Mr Norris said companies treated crime prevention in an "extraordinary throwaway fashion". Businesses also suffered through the effect of crime on people.

"Millions of people are affected - employees, shareholders and customers. The cost is not purely financial. There is an equally significant human loss counted in fear, injury, illness and stress," he said. Investment in crime prevention would make communities better places in which to live.

Mr John Patten, Minister of State at the Home Office, said the "horrifying losses" meant that crime prevention should be a fully integrated function of top management. He added that crime was responsible for the entire increase in crime statistics in the past decade, and called on car manufacturers to improve security on new models.

Watch scheme groups seek aid

By Ray Clancy

NEIGHBOURHOOD Watch schemes are working effectively in areas where they are well supported by the local police, group co-ordinators said yesterday.

The Neighbourhood Watch associations, speaking out after a report from Crime Concern, a charity that claimed some chief constables were blocking the creation of watch groups because of the cost, asked for more money for such schemes, combined with national co-ordination.

They claimed that good relations with the police and a change in the attitude that Neighbourhood Watch was only for "nosey parkers" were the keys to success, but other problems such as ethnic considerations had to be overcome in inner-city areas.

Mr Alan Blows, chairman of the London Association of Neighbourhood Watches, which represents 10,300 schemes, said: "Many Asian groups are suspicious of the police so there has to be a breaking down of barriers."

Moves were afoot to found a national federation aimed at securing a government grant. "About £7 million is needed in London to create more watch schemes. Police budgets just cannot extend to that sort of funding. It is time we had grants of our own," Mr Blows said. "We are gradually doing the work of the police. We are helping to reduce crime yet the funds are not available to expand. More money is needed in areas like Brixton, which has a high crime rate, but the police are reluctant to invest in these areas."

Police in Bedfordshire, which pioneered many watch schemes, have been encouraging new groups. More than 1,600 schemes have been set up since the first one in 1983. Luton, which is seen as a "difficult" area, has built up a successful network that now includes a pyramid-style management structure, with 513 groups covering 20 per cent of all households. Recorded crime has dropped.

The first schemes were administered by local crime prevention officers and depended on officers on the beat. Mr Clyn Spalding, assistant chief constable of Bedfordshire, said: "Communication was unprofessional and unrealistic promises were made about visits to home-watch groups. Dissatisfaction reached a level where in some respects it was debatable whether the schemes were doing more harm than good."

In 1987, an innovative regional structure was introduced on 16 beats based on electoral wards, enabling the local police, local council and local beat officers to get together. A co-ordinator was appointed for each area. Mr Tony Woolf, chairman of Luton Homewatch, said: "We are lucky because the police have been very helpful and invested time and money. They are willing to listen... A scheme can only succeed if the police and the people want to make it work."



Solemnity must wait as a Wrac draws special attention before the 8th Battalion The Queen's Fusiliers, London's newest Territorial Army unit, exercises its right to march through the City for recruiting purposes "with colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed"

Vigilante chief is convicted firebomber

A SELF-styled street vigilante who has launched his own vigilante corps in Bristol based on the "Guardian Angels" yesterday admitted to having received a 21-month prison sentence in 1984 for fire-bombing a house.

Mr James Waithe, aged 28, an Olympic judo star who is setting up the "UK Commies" to patrol the streets of Bristol, was jailed at Bristol Crown Court in November 1984 for fire-bombing a house in revenge for having his windscreens smashed. He also received a nine-month concurrent sentence for assault causing bodily harm.

He said yesterday: "I certainly regret what happened years ago, but since then I have represented my country at the Olympics as well as doing considerable social work. I feel I have paid my debt to society and now I am committed to making full amends by protecting society."

Mr Waithe launched the Commies on the day the Guardian Angels, wearing their distinctive red berets and led by Mr Colin "Gabriel" Hatcher, marched into Bristol on a "fact-finding mission". They are to stay in Bristol for three days to advise local crime fighters how to form their own chapter.

The visit has sparked a storm of protest from police and community leaders, particularly as Miss Samantha Jones, an Angels spokeswoman, has vowed to teach would-be crime fighters how to make crooks "suck concrete". Mr Hatcher, aged 31, the London chapter leader, promised the group would not provoke tension and violence when they toured the sensitive areas of St Paul's and Southmead, scenes of past rioting. "Our uniforms are a deterrent that actually stops trouble breaking out. We have come to Bristol in answer to pleas from hundreds of people who are frightened of street crime and want to learn how to defend themselves from it."

Mr Sebastian Metz, a Canadian-born Angel, said: "Making crooks suck concrete may sound a little harsh. But we draw a line and if the lawbreakers step over it... we come down on them hard and fast."

The Angels marched, military-style into the main Broadmead shopping centre - and got a cool reception. "They're more frightening than any criminal," an elderly woman said. "I'd run a mile if I saw one of them crossing the road towards me."

Supermarket lures staff with pension equality

By Tim Jones, Employment Correspondent

THE supermarket war to recruit and retain staff intensified yesterday when Gateway announced that male employees will be able to join female staff in retiring at 60 with full pension benefits.

Food retailers are locked into a growing struggle to attract staff in the face of a diminishing labour force because of the so-called "demographic time bomb". The battle between retailers is, in particular, about enticing part-time workers, mainly women.

Gateway's 50,000 staff were told of the development before last week's "landmark" ruling of the European Court of Justice that means that British firms will have to phase in equal pension ages for men and women under occupational pension schemes. Indeed, amid fears that the ruling could cost pension funds as much as £2 billion a year unless the retirement age of women is raised to 65, Gateway has bucked the trend as it fights to attract quality staff in an increasingly competitive environment.

About 34 per cent of Gateway staff are male and about half the company's workforce are part-time employees. To

cater for the part-timers, who are vital to its success, Gateway has also lowered the minimum contracted hours of work an employee has to put in before being eligible to join the pension scheme, from 30 to 20 hours a week. The company has also reduced the employee's contribution from 5 per cent to 2.5 per cent, and has lowered the age at which staff can join the company pension scheme from 24 to 20.

Gateway's announcement comes just a month after it introduced two days' paid paternity leave for its male employees. Mr Peter Fisher, the company's director of human resources, said: "This latest package of improvements places men alongside women in terms of retirement age, recognizes the value we place in our part-time workforce, and also offers incentives for young people now in increasing demand."

Relatives of Gateway employees who die in service will get a lump sum of four times annual earnings.

Elsewhere, Sainsbury's, which has 33,600 full-time employees among its 86,000 staff, said employees could join its pension scheme at the age of 16. The company said it was countering the "demo-

graphic time bomb" by recruiting people up to the age of 70 and offering a series of benefits, including share options, profit-sharing schemes, mortgage advice, health care and staff discounts.

The two biggest health unions are to launch an equal pay campaign on behalf of hundreds of thousands of women who work in the National Health Service. The first phase of the offensive by the National Union of Public Employees (Nupel) and the Confederation of Health Service Employees (Cohse) will involve flooding industrial tribunals with equal value claims.

The aim is to achieve equal pay for work of equal value among hospital ancillary workers, who are some of the lowest paid staff in the National Health Service. The unions said that the campaign will expose the unequal treatment of men and women. Miss Judith Carter, Cohse's national officer for equal opportunity, said: "We hope this significant legal assault will force NHS management to recognize that they are grossly undervaluing the skills of their support staff."

Law article, page 33

Car bomb soldiers honoured

Two soldiers who pulled an injured military policeman from his burning car after an IRA bomb attack, have received the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct.

Lieutenant Michael Simpson, aged 26, and Sergeant Martin Snook, aged 35, rescued Sergeant Andrew Mudd after the attack in Colchester, Essex, in November. Moments after pulling him clear, the car's petrol tank exploded, engulfing the vehicle in flames. The two men gave first aid to Sergeant Mudd, who lost both legs, and his wife, Margaret.

The Ministry of Defence praised Lieutenant Simpson's "resolute leadership and considerable personal courage", and Sergeant Snook for his "calmness and presence of mind".

Libel damages

Police Constable Barry Fawden has accepted "substantial" libel damages against the *News of the World*, the *Rutland and Stamford Mercury*, and the *Peterborough Evening Telegraph* over stories alleging he was involved with a woman while on duty in Stamford, Lincolnshire.

Yoghurt fine

Gordon Conrad, a food firm from Lambeth, south London, was fined £1,500 with £6,100 costs at Brighton Crown Court yesterday for distributing Greek sheep yoghurt that was, in fact, more than 50 per cent cows' milk. The cartons have since been relabelled.

Bought as seen

A black Ferrari owned by Valerio Vicci, who masterminded the Knightsbridge safe deposit robbery, fetched £88,000 at auction yesterday. The car was offered by Scotland Yard in the condition it was seized: dented front wings and the windscreen smashed by a truncheon.

Pressure of life

Mr Len Albin and his wife, Norma, who have had to call on friends at the bottom of the hill on which they live in Woodcote, Berkshire, to have a shower because of low water pressure, for many years, are to be linked to high pressure mains in time for their daughter's imminent wedding.

Campaign vote

The National Union of Public Employees voted at its conference in Blackpool yesterday to join a national campaign to free the Birmingham Six.

Self help

Police in Nottinghamshire are issuing do-it-yourself fingerprint kits to relieve pressure on fingerprint officers wanted at scenes of crimes.

Disc-stored X-ray system heralds medical revolution

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

A PIONEERING system of medical X-rays which does not rely on film and which should be safer, faster and more reliable, was launched in a £13 million government project yesterday.

The pilot scheme at Hammersmith Hospital, west London, will be the first in Britain and it is one of the first hospitals in the world to adopt the method. The digital radiology system means that patients are X-rayed in the usual way, but the images are stored on computer discs rather than film. That allows instant electronic transmission throughout the hospital without risk of loss or damage.

Specialists in different departments will be able to view the images on computer screens simultaneously and

make quicker diagnoses. Perfect images obtained at the first attempt should mean that patients need fewer X-rays.

Professor David Allison, director of the hospital's diagnostic radiology department, said: "It is going to change the way we practise medicine." The system is to be evaluated at Hammersmith during the next three years. If successful, it is likely to be introduced more widely.

Mrs Virginia Bottomley, the Minister of Health, announced funding for the system yesterday. "This is a real innovation in the field of medical science," she said. It would benefit Hammersmith Hospital staff and patients and provide information on how to improve radiology services in other centres. The system

will be installed as part of a new radiology department at Hammersmith. About £10 million of the £13 million total will be spent on equipment, the remainder going to building costs and fees.

The project uses what is called the Picture Archiving and Communication System. The technology behind it has been developed by X-ray manufacturers in Europe, Japan and the United States.

Professor Allison said: "A great deal of work has to be done before it takes the place completely of conventional X-ray systems, but it has tremendous potential. The days of wasting hours searching for lost X-rays and transporting them from one end of a hospital to another are numbered."

Mappa's return fails to ease cathedral's plight

By Craig Seton

THE DEAN and Chapter of Hereford Cathedral welcomed yesterday the return of the 13th-century map of the world, the Mappa Mundi, but said they did not regret their decision 18 months ago to send it to Sotheby's for auction, despite the national outcry. They said saving the unique map for the nation had not solved the cathedral's desperate financial plight.

The Mappa Mundi, which the cathedral authorities had wanted to sell for £7 million to pay for urgent repairs and running costs, has been on exhibition at the British Library in London and was returned to Hereford, where it went on public display in the city yesterday for the first time since it was withdrawn from sale.

The dean and chapter said yesterday they were still many millions of pounds short of money for urgent

repairs, even though the map's return to Hereford had been secured by a grant of £2 million from the National Heritage Memorial Fund and a further £1 million from Mr John Paul Getty Jr, the millionaire philanthropist. The money will be used to provide a new building to house the Mappa Mundi and the cathedral's other great treasure, the medieval Chained Library.

At yesterday's unveiling ceremony at the cathedral, the map's home for nearly 700 years, the Very Rev Peter Haynes, the dean, said the Mappa Mundi saga had graphically highlighted the need for a national solution to the financial problems of preserving the country's cathedrals.

He said: "I do not regret what we did. There must be a long-term national solution for our cathedrals, which are of national importance and

part of our heritage. It cannot be left to crisis management by deans and chapters every few years. It is nice to see the Mappa Mundi back, as long as people do not believe that saving the map is the saving of the cathedral. We were not crying wolf and what we did was not a publicity stunt. We had a single objective... to secure the future of the cathedral."

He said that public appeals to raise money for cathedral repairs were not as successful as they used to be. Although the Mappa Mundi would now be found a permanent home in the city, where it could be shown to the public, the cathedral still needed at least £4 million of the £7 million target set two years ago. He said that, with increased costs and inflation, as much as £8 million might still be needed. "It is a bottomless pit."

The dean and chapter believe they

will need at least £4.5 million over the next 10 years to pay for repairs to the fabric of the cathedral and £1 million to provide an income of £100,000 a year for its foundations. Canon John Tiller, the chancellor of the cathedral, said the last of the £1 million raised in a public appeal begun in 1985 would be spent this year on repairs.

The Mappa Mundi, regarded as the greatest extant 13th-century manuscript, was drawn on a piece of vellum 64 inches by 34 inches in about 1290. It shows the world as a circle surrounded by seas, with Jerusalem at the centre. The £2 million from the National Heritage Memorial fund will help to secure the future of the map and the Chained Library and provide income for the cathedral, while the £1 million from Mr Getty will pay for the cost of a new exhibition centre for the treasures.

Anaesthetist struck off over death of boy from overdose

AN ANAESTHETIST involved in treatment resulting in the death of a boy aged nine was yesterday found guilty of serious professional misconduct by the General Dental Council, which recommended his name be struck off the register.

The council found that Mr George Brown, of St Mary's Crescent, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, had given an overdose of the anaesthetic to Darren Bamford, of Burleigh Road, Cheshunt, that he had failed to monitor the patient adequately and had failed to administer an anaesthetic properly. Mr Nitchin Kr-

echa, of Turner's Hill, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, aged 33, the dentist, was earlier cleared of failing to monitor the patient.

Mr Brown, aged 63, an experienced specialist anaesthetist, gave the boy more than twice the correct level of anaesthetic. Darren had 165 milligrammes of the barbiturate drug after a miscalculation, when he should have had 30 milligrammes. The boy suffered severe brain damage and died 10 days later.

Mrs Janet Bamford, his mother, said yesterday: "We are pleased a conclusion has been arrived at. It helped us to

understand what happened." She confirmed a civil action is going ahead against Mr Brown. The anaesthetist told the council yesterday that he had been haunted by the death of the boy and that he had felt "total terror" before giving patients anaesthetics since the operation.

Mr Brown said he still had no idea why Darren had died. His pulse had been normal throughout the 20-minute operation and all other signs indicated nothing unusual. At the time he did not own a patient monitoring device called a pulse oximeter but he had since bought one.

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Kirk 'deeply worried' over moves to relax drink licensing laws

MOVES to relax drink licensing laws further were opposed yesterday at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh.

The Rev Andrew McLean, convener of the Kirk's board of social responsibility, said the board was "deeply worried" about such moves. Licensing laws had been imposed "because of the personal and economic damage caused by the unrestricted flow of alcohol".

Mr McLean said the Royal College of Psychiatrists had produced firm evidence that countries with the most liberal licensing laws have the highest alcohol-related mortality. The assembly was told, however, that Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, Scottish home af-

fairs minister, had rejected the offer of a meeting with the Kirk to discuss the issue.

The Rev William Wallace, of Wick, maintained that a minority of people favoured more liberal licensing. Only 2 per cent of the population wanted to shop on Sundays, he said. "Liberal legislation will do damage to our Scottish heritage." The assembly agreed to continue monitoring any changes in licensing and urged presbyteries and Kirk sessions to be aware of the implications of any change.

The assembly overwhelmingly rejected a minister's call to consider legalizing the use of drugs. The Rev John Cameron, of Broughty Ferry, said that

when alcohol prohibition laws were passed in the United States small-time crime had flourished and become big business. He said radical action had to be taken to stamp out criminal drug-pushers, but called on the assembly to consider the decriminalization of drug abuse and report its findings to next year's session.

However, Mr McLean said: "The present law serves the nation well." He called on the assembly to reject Mr Cameron's motion.

Kirk income increased by about £3.7 million last year, despite an 18,500 drop in membership, the assembly was told by the Rev Jack Beaumont, convener of the board of stewardship and finance. He

said the 7.8 per cent increase in income — the largest recorded — had matched the rate of inflation in 1989 and showed that church members had responded to last year's warnings about Kirk finances.

The increase would have to be sustained in future years, if the church's work was to continue at its present level, Mr Beaumont said. But he was pleased with the increase. "The figure is encouraging, because it suggests that it is still possible for the income of the church to keep pace with inflation or even to exceed it, despite the continuing and sizeable fall in church membership."

A strategic plan, designed to strengthen the Kirk's finances, had already been adopted by the assembly.

Mr Beaumont said. Spending in 1990 had been budgeted on the basis that congregation income would increase by 6 per cent.

In 1991, however, the church planned to challenge members by increasing budgeted spending by 8 per cent. "This represents a realistic target which we are confident the church is capable of achieving," Mr Beaumont said.

In presenting the board's report, he urged church financial boards to encourage members to increase funds by committing themselves to giving a definite proportion of their income to the Kirk and by way of deed of covenant. He also called for financial boards to review giving on an annual basis. Mr

Beaumont called for the boards to make use of material available through the Kirk's "Sharing Church" programme, which explains to members how their money is used.

A Kirk elder, Mr James Gibson, of Glasgow, asked if the board had any recommendation about the proportion of income that members should give to the church. Mr Beaumont said that in the past it had been suggested that a figure of 5 per cent was appropriate.

Mr Beaumont, presenting his last report as convener of the board of stewardship and finance, was commended for his work by the Moderator, the Right Rev Professor Robert Davidson, on behalf of the assembly.

Labour spells out children's charter

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

THE Labour Party yesterday unveiled plans for a children's charter designed to give young people a voice on such issues as poverty, abuse and neglect.

A policy document launched by Miss Joan Lester, the spokesman on children, called for a realistic level of child benefit, a network of young people's hostels, and a nationwide system of nursery provision.

The latter proposal is in line with the party's campaigning document to be published on Thursday, which speaks of giving "every three and four-year-old whose parents want it the chance of a nursery education by integrating nursery education with every other form of child care".

Miss Lester said the paper released yesterday, *Giving Children a Voice*, the first step in the charter, was "a statement about the rights and needs of children". It identified the main areas of concern as: missing and abused children, those forced to work illegally or to care for a dependent adult, and homeless and sick children. The document also suggested a childwatch scheme similar to neighbourhood watch, a computerized system to collect basic information on missing children, and help for children with AIDS.

"It is the beginning of a process that will identify areas of concern about child victims of poverty, abuse and neglect," Miss Lester said, although she was unable to estimate the cost of the proposals.

Labour is also planning a new programme of environmental and economic help for the world's poorer countries, more than doubling spending on overseas aid (the Press Association reports).

Mrs Ann Clwyd, shadow Minister for Overseas Development, said all aid would be "environmentally sound". The party would boost investment in the development of renewable energy sources and try to reduce the burdens of debt. The policy goes before the party's national executive committee this week.

Grant school to take on policy role after opt-out

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

A COMPREHENSIVE school that will opt out of local authority control this September is to be given an unprecedented opportunity to influence educational policy in the borough from which it has broken away.

Under a scheme awaiting approval from Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, Bishopshalt School in Hillingdon, west London, will be invited to nominate a representative to the borough's education committee. Hillingdon, which was recaptured by the Conservatives in the local elections earlier this month, is the first council to seek to involve a grant-maintained school in the running of its education service.

Yesterday, Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, welcomed the development. "I am delighted that Hillingdon has taken this decision," he said. "Hillingdon recognizes that grant-maintained schools are here to stay and that they are proving popular with parents."

The plan, which marks a watershed in municipal thinking on opting out, would allow a representative of Bishopshalt to sit as a non-voting member of a new, streamlined education committee. Under the 1989 Local Government and Housing Act any change in the constitution of a local authority education committee requires ministerial approval.

Dr David Payne, the chairman of Hillingdon education committee, said: "I hope that we are trail-blazing and that other Conservative authorities will follow our lead. Far from wanting to fight opting out we welcome the varying types of education that will be available to our pupils in the borough. It is up to the parents to choose from the menu of choice we can now offer."

He said he expected either the headmaster of Bishopshalt or the chairman of governors

to sit as the school's representative on the education committee from September, if the change was approved.

Mr Adrian Pritchard, director of the Grant-Maintained Schools' Trust, which advises opted-out schools, said: "I think it is a terrific, exciting idea. I have always thought that, given time, local authorities would come to terms with grant-maintained schools. We have begun to see evidence in all parts of the country that the initial hostility is lessening. This is extremely positive and I hope others will follow suit."

Dr Payne also disclosed plans to take on Wandsworth, another borough where the Conservatives did well in the local elections, in the race to play host to a new type of City Technology College (CTC). After last year's decision by the Treasury to cut off funds to the CTC programme once the first 20 pilot schemes were complete, the CTC Trust announced that it wanted to go into partnership with education authorities to set up voluntary-aided CTCs. Wandsworth has already announced plans for a voluntary-aided CTC at Battersea, but Dr Payne said that Hillingdon hoped to be first with a conversion of Townmead School, a comprehensive near Heathrow airport.

Conservative councillors are already seeking support for the scheme from local businesses. Dr Payne said the council would seek to raise £500,000 from industry to launch the project. The Department of Education and Science had promised to match donations up to £500,000 and the council was considering donating a further £250,000 to help with start-up costs.

The school, which has been under threat of closure because of falling pupil numbers would double in size to 1,000 pupils and would also serve as a "resource centre" for training teachers in technology subjects.



Mr Jim Erwin, a British Gypsum manager, musing yesterday over a folly built in Sussex by "Mad John" Fuller (left) in the 1820s to win a bet that he could see a church spire from his home.

Playground of an eccentric for sale

THE Robertsbridge Estate in East Sussex is a deceptive property, dotted with 19th-century follies while beneath the ground are gypsum workings that have been mined for 120 years (Christopher Warman writes).

The gypsum mine is all underground and has not disturbed the deeply wooded Sussex countryside, which is a feature of the area. As mining has moved to the outer fringes of the estate, its owner, British Gypsum, is selling the 3,000 acres of tenant farms and forestry above.

Originally, the site formed part of the Brightling Estate owned by John Fuller, elected MP for East Sussex in 1807. His short political career ended in 1810 when he was ejected from the Commons and threatened with imprisonment after insulting several people, including the Speaker.

He was known as "Mad Jack" Fuller, both for his eccentric style and his habit of building follies on hills around Brightling. One of them, Brightling Tower, is included

in the sale and was probably built in the 1820s. It is believed it was built after he had bought Bodiam Castle near by so that he could watch the progress of repair works from the top of the 35ft tower. The British Gypsum Company, with the Sussex Historic Gardens Restoration Society, has helped to renovate it, erecting an iron staircase inside to replace the original wooden one destroyed by fire.

Today the tower, which was damaged by the hurricane of October 1987, gives fine views over Darwell Reservoir.

Other follies built by or for Fuller include a round temple, a 25ft pyramid in the local churchyard as his grave, and the "sugar loaf". The 35ft high conical-shaped structure was reputedly built by Fuller in 24 hours to resemble a church steeple and win a bet that he could see a church spire from his estate. British Gypsum is asking about £2.5 million for the estate, which includes two vacant houses and the opportunity for shooting and stalking.

Parkinson puts Channel link subsidy in doubt

By Michael Dynes, Transport Correspondent

PROPOSALS to build the Channel tunnel rail link were thrown into confusion yesterday after Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Transport, appeared to rule out the prospect of any government subsidy.

Addressing a conference, organized by the *Financial Times*, on the theme of European transport in the 1990s, Mr Parkinson said: "We believe that rail must win its place in the market, and not have it bought for it by the taxpayer."

His statement puts a question mark over proposals by the European Rail Link consortium, made up of British Rail, Trafalgar House and BICC, to complete the new link by 1998, when existing rail capacity will be unable to cope with demand. Under those proposals it is thought British Rail will put up about £1 billion towards the cost of the project, while its two private-sector partners will provide about £1.2 billion, leaving the Government to fund the remaining £400 million to make the scheme commercially viable.

In exchange for the subsidy, Network South-East would be given 50 per cent of the new line, thereby providing the additional capacity needed to relieve chronic overcrowding on Kent commuter services.

Although European Rail Link declined to comment on Mr Parkinson's statement, it is widely thought a decision not to back the new line with public funds would force the consortium to produce a cheaper route by saving on environmental protection measures, or postpone construction indefinitely.

Mr Parkinson said that while the Government was planning to spend more than £1 billion on up-grading the existing line, construction of the 68-mile high-speed link between Folkestone and King's Cross "was never part of the original plan. It was an addition." He was studying the proposals submitted last month by European Rail Link, and an announcement was expected shortly.

He added that Parliament had put a clause in the Channel tunnel Bill that said there should be no subsidy for the rail link, and that would discriminate against existing services that were not subsidized.

Some transport analysts interpreted Mr Parkinson's statement as an attempt "to hedge his bets" in case the Treasury over-ruled the subsidy proposal, while others saw it as a warning that the Government was preparing to "stall" over the final decision. Mr Parkinson, however, dismissed claims that Britain was falling behind its European partners in the provision of transport infrastructure. He said the Government was

overseeing "a huge investment to make sure the tunnel was serviced by rail and road from the day it opens". That included the £250 million announced last week to build London's first international passenger terminal at Waterloo, a new train maintenance depot in north London, the purchase of 20 Class 92 electric freight locomotives, and electrification of the Tonbridge-Redhill route.

Mr Wyn Roberts, Minister of State for Wales, yesterday became the first man to walk the entire three-quarter-mile length of a £170 million road tunnel by-passing Conwy, in Gwynedd. Six tunnel sections, each weighing 33,000 tonnes, were constructed on land and then floated out, sunk into a trench dredged in the Conwy river bed and joined together. The road will be open next year.

Trout die as stream is poisoned

By Lin Jenkins

POLLUTION has devastated an important spawning ground for trout in the river Camel in Cornwall, killing thousands of fish and many more recently hatched fry.

Residents in Lanivet and Nanstallon, near Bodmin, have been warned not to eat any fish from the river or paddle in the Lanivet stream, after a five-gallon drum of toxic fungicide was dumped in the river at the weekend.

National Rivers Authority wardens have picked up more than 600 fish, but local fishermen say twice that number have died, and many more are strewn along a two-mile section of the stream. Large numbers of fry measuring up to 1 1/4 in long, have died.

"Farmers are being advised to keep their livestock away and not to take water from the stream following a serious pollution incident. In short this has killed the stream," a spokesman for the National Rivers Authority, which has called in the police, said.

Tests are being carried out along the Lanivet stream and the Camel to monitor the levels of Pentachlorophenol (PCP). The spokesman said although some dead fish may have been washed into the main river, the levels of PCP were below critical levels for fish in the Camel. However, conservationists are concerned at the effect on animals such as kingfishers and otters, which may have eaten poisoned trout. Mr Tyson Jackson, chairman of the Camel Fisheries Association, said it would take up to four years for the stream to recover.

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LET IT THROUGH
THE TIMES

Boote by-election

Kinnock sets style on campaign trail

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent, Boote

MR NEIL Kinnock had a stylish start to his week yesterday as he delivered a brief homily on the sartorial standards of the working class and saw the latest trends in children's and women's wear.

The Labour leader, looking the epitome of a successful businessman in his dark navy, wide-shouldered, double-breasted suit (with turn-ups) and polished brogues, was in Merseyside to support his party's candidate in the Boote by-election. Mr Kinnock bristled with indignation when asked whether the new executive look of the Labour Party — smart suits and red roses — would be off-putting to the working-class voters of Boote.

Around him were other examples of Labour's "new look". The candidate, Mr Mike Carr, looked a little uncomfortable in a blue pin-stripe suit. Dr Marjorie Mowlam, the party's City spokesman, was in a mustard-coloured suit with matching shoes, and the Walworth Road press officer was wearing a high-fashion white jacket

and black skirt. Mr Kinnock replied to the question: "I'm certain, looking at Boote, where people want to succeed, as they do, that when they go for an interview or to make a presentation of themselves they go out with clean shoes, a clean shirt and a straight tie if they are men. And the equivalent if they are women."

"The working-class people of Boote expect us to dress and present ourselves in the best possible way," Mr Kinnock said.



Mr Kinnock: Looking for a high turnout

Kinnock was speaking at the end of a 40-minute visit to Ritz Designs, a firm making women's and children's clothing for Marks & Spencer and Dunns stores.

The firm took over the plant in 1986 when Courtaulds closed it. Mr Kinnock confessed that the only sewing he had ever done was his "wild oats". But he was clearly aware of the need for a good photograph and was easily persuaded by Miss Coleen Hampton, one of 200 employees at the Seaforth factory, to assist in sewing a children's top. "I didn't know my own strength, I could have started a new fashion here," Mr Kinnock said as he surveyed the results of his handiwork — a badly ruffled piece of fabric. Although Boote was the fifth safest Labour seat at the last general election, Mr Kinnock denied the party was taking the voters for granted. With the campaign organizers concerned that turnout might be low because the late MP, Mr Allan Roberts, bequeathed a 24,477 majority, Mr Kinnock appealed for a high

turnout on Thursday. He said: "We are not taking the people of Boote for granted in any way whatsoever. I just hope that there will be a high turnout because I hope that people, whatever they vote, will be whatever their democratic right."

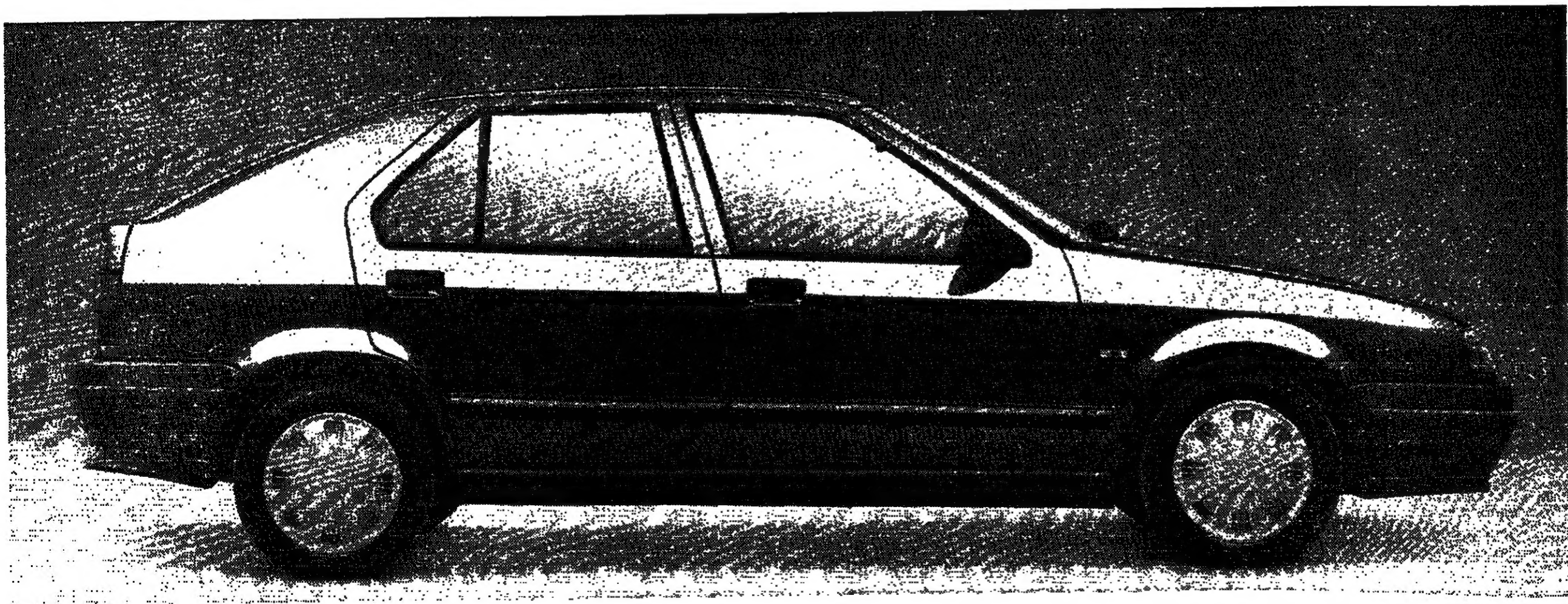
The Labour leader promised that his party would not offer the people of Britain or Boote a false prospectus, saying it was a party looking to the future rather than looking over its shoulders to the past. "We are the party prepared to face up to the realities and to face them and understand them."

A closer look around the Ritz Design factory would have shown that one of those realities was that while the company was turning out high-quality goods for one of Britain's top high-street retailers, most of the machines producing them had the words "made in Japan" on their sides.

General election: Allan Roberts (Lab) 34,975; D Papworth (Con) 10,498; P Denham (SDP/All) 6,820. Lab maj: 24,477.

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Merchants of Kowloon await their fate in trepidation

From Charles Bremner
Hong Kong

THIS time last year, amid the euphoria of China's fling with democracy, nobody was invoking visions of the People's Liberation Army marching up Nathan Road, into Hong Kong's riotous commercial free-for-all. But, as the first anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre approaches, many are dwelling on the arrival of the first Chinese contingents who will be stationed in Hong Kong after July 1, 1997, the day Britain hands over its last great colony.

"It's impossible to imagine that they will just let us get on with business," says Mr. Kenny Ching, who fled China to make his living as one of the thousands of merchants selling electronic gear on the teeming Kowloon thoroughfare. "They will have their cadres crawling all over us. It's terrible to have to go into Communist rule just when everyone else is giving it up."

In varying degrees, just about everyone in the territory, from the super-rich Chinese elite to the pro-democracy students, share something of Mr. Ching's anxiety now that the illusions of last spring have faded and the epilogue to Britain's empire plays itself out.

The only difference focuses on how to ensure the best deal in the face of what has now become clear: though China clearly aims to stick to its pledge to give capitalism free rein in its special administrative region, it has quashed hopes that it will also tolerate real self-rule or democratic expression.

The Basic Law, the mini-constitution promulgated this year, makes it clear that executive power will remain firmly in the hands of Peking and effectively curtails political and press freedoms in the Western sense. The Chinese have also ruled that no foreign passport holder will be allowed to hold any senior post. Few in Hong Kong, including British officials, believe Peking will pay regard to Britain's proposed Bill of Rights, which is designed to preserve basic Western-style liberties, at least in its present form.

After a year in which China has done next to nothing to calm fears of its political intentions, a sense of despair and betrayal hangs heavily over the territory of almost six million people,



Mr. Lee: "We are going downhill and it's a very steep slope"

with Britain almost as much a target as Peking. "It's still in the denial stage," says a former American intelligence officer who now works as a consultant for, among others, the Chinese security police and Asian businesses. "Next, it's going to be aggression. Something's going to trigger it and we're going to have trouble. These people have been royally swindled by Britain, and they are angry."

On the surface, nothing would suggest impending upheaval as the money-making fever roars on, only a little dimmed by last year's "events", as the Chinese euphemism puts it. The city resounds to the noise of construction. The road to the racetrack is still clogged with the high-priced transport that gives Hong Kong the top rank over Monte Carlo and Beverly Hills for Rolls-Royces per square mile. The trappings of benevolent colonial rule are still everywhere, from the processions of bewigged and robed judges to the very British police force and the Anglo voices on television exhorting people, 1950s style, to drive with care.

Other signs of continuity are less visible. There is the commitment to a new multi-billion dollar airport and consumer port and, while the great old trading concerns such as Jardine Matheson are trying to diversify out of the colony, Japanese conglomerates are moving in.

Look more closely, however, and everywhere you hear the talk of borrowed time, the comparisons with the commercial frenzy of pre-war Shanghai. There is no doubting the crisis of confidence now sweeping the territory. Surveys show lower confidence than at any time since the Tiananmen killing. Capital is being shifted out. Morale in the civil service is reported to be crumbling. Middle-level managers and technical experts are leaving at the rate of 1,000 a month and 80 per cent of the colony's chartered accountants say they plan to be out by 1997.

The biggest symptom is the rush to emigrate or obtain the shelter of a foreign passport — a goal that people are now pursuing with the diligence they normally apply to trade. Pregnant women are flying abroad to give birth on foreign territory. All kinds of "advisers" are charging for fast routes to the ideals of Canadian, Australian or American residence (Britain comes low in the list as a choice of destination).

Even countries such as Panama and Tonga are acquiring allure as havens. Seeing its chance, the Tongan Government last week launched a scheme to enable Hong Kong citizens to purchase consular protection with a down-payment and monthly instalments. In one swindle, several people were lured by advertisements and paid thousands of dollars for a passport from the non-existent Republic of Cortera.

Officials and the more optimistic businessmen tell you that the people are just exercising prudence by seeking an extra passport and that many plan to return once they have prepared a foreign haven. The pessimists see the colony draining itself of vital mid-level manpower well before the handover date. Dr

Joseph Cheng, Dean of the Open University, who speaks for the liberal professional Chinese community, says he believes "there will be a considerable crisis in two or three years to come and there is nothing Britain or anyone can do about it".

Dr Cheng partially blames the failure of local leaders to abandon the paternalistic habits of colonial rule, typified by the local legislature. This view — that Hong Kong was always too busy getting rich to bother about democracy — is widely shared. The Legislative Council, a cosy club of government officials and business leaders, will see its first handful of directly elected members next year. China will eventually allow no more than half to be directly voted in.

For the definitive bleak view you have to go to Mr. Martin Lee, the QC and legislator who launched the Alliance movement this year, the first political party in the colony. "We are going downhill and it's a very steep slope..." The British kowtowed and democracy was thrown out of the window. "With its policy of appeasement, Britain was losing out on all sides, he said, earning the disdain of Peking as well as of the Hong Kong people. In one area at least, he speaks for very many. Britain's award of UK passports to 50,000 key people and their families has generated resentment rather than gratitude, as well as angering China.

For many of the influential elite, people such as Dame Lydia Dunn, the senior figure on the Executive Council,

Mr Lee's outspoken views are unrealistic, futile and dangerous. Though generally unhappy over the terms of Britain's 1984 agreement, these people see their best hope in avoiding doing anything to offend Peking.

For the first time, these opposing views have erupted in the heart of the business community, leading to a public clash between two senior figures. Mr. Jimmy McGregor, the Chamber of Commerce representative on the Legislative Council, denounced the "extremely undemocratic political model" laid down by Peking. He was immediately rebuffed by Mr. Helmut Sohm, the Chamber's chairman, who subscribes to the school of not rocking the boat. Mr. Sohm's views are generally shared by the leaders of the big companies and government officials, who see no mileage in antagonizing the future rulers.

Exerting growing influence, Peking has made clear that it expects to be consulted on any decisions affecting the future. The Chinese were so put out by Britain's publication of its Draft Bill of Rights that they refuse to discuss it, officials say.

Many in the territory, particularly from the liberal side, are upset that Britain has yielded to China's demand that Hong Kong must not be used as a staging ground for any activities aimed at the "subversion" of the communist state. In the latest piece of high-handedness, the mainland has cocked a snook at Hong Kong sovereignty by arresting police officers involved in an anti-smuggling operation inside the colony.

The intifada spills out of occupied territories

From Richard Owen, Nazareth

IT WAS Israel's nightmare come true: the Palestinian intifada which has tied down Israeli troops in the occupied territories for two and a half years spilled over yesterday into Israel's own Arab towns.

After just a few hours of intense street rioting, Nazareth, the largest Israeli Arab town with a mixed Christian-Muslim population, became a burning wasteland, littered with broken glass and stones as thousands of Arab youths fought pitched battles with police and troops.

The streets were blocked by barricade after barricade of burning tyres, overturned rubbish bins and wooden crates. The area was thick with the acrid smoke of tear gas as troops drove demonstrators into side streets and aimed water cannon at them.

The area around the great Roman Catholic Basilica of the Annunciation in the centre of Nazareth suddenly resembled a war zone. I joined a group of youths clustered around the Terra Sancta College adjoining the huge building. They stood in the middle of the road giving victory signs and hurled large stones at the troops and police, who

charged up the hill in response. The youths, many carrying broken staves and catapults, scattered to take refuge behind the high walls of the college.

"Jewish bastards," said Hisham, a bearded Muslim youth. "We had to do this to show them that we won't just let Arabs be killed without reacting."

Later, as the mood turned still nastier, even the handful of journalists present became targets for indiscriminate attacks as masked youths fired catapults in our direction until persuaded to stop. Helicopters circled overhead, and troops hauled down black flags and posters put up by the influential local Communist Party as a sign of mourning, both for the seven Arabs who died on Sunday at Kishon le Zion and those who died in the subsequent rioting in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Windows of a department store were smashed, and the bank next door set on fire.

Local Arabs who normally act as guides to Western tourists seeing the holy site of Jesus's boyhood stood in dismay at shattered windows and burned-out street kiosks. At one point a small army vehicle roared up and soldiers manhandled an Arab youth into it, beating him in the process.

The violent response in Nazareth and other Israeli towns had begun peacefully enough as a general strike, with shops closed in solidarity with Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. But, according to Nazareth residents, police and troops were deployed in force with water cannon, plastic bullets and tear gas, and the young people of the town responded by stepping up the protest.

"Down with fascism, down with racism," they chanted, reflecting a general feeling among Arabs in the occupied territories and Israel proper that the country has moved to the right politically and that there is little or no hope of a peace settlement because of the Government's rejection of the American-sponsored Middle East peace initiative.

"Two peoples, two states," the demonstrators shouted, an alarming sign to the Israeli authorities that the increasingly radicalized youth of Israeli Arab towns support the Palestinian demand for a separate state.

The Israeli Jew who killed the seven Arabs on Sunday was yesterday named as Mr. Ami Propper, aged 21, who was remanded in custody and sent for psychiatric tests. In Nazareth, however, nobody believed he was truly mad. "When a Jew kills Arabs, he is automatically crazy," one shopkeeper said, "but when an Arab kills a Jew, he is given a heavy prison sentence as a nationalist."

Police sources said five policemen were wounded in yesterday's riots here, and that several buses and taxis were destroyed. The demonstrations also included the raising of the banned flag of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"We can continue the demonstrations as long as necessary," one youth in Nazareth said yesterday. "The intifada in Gaza and the West Bank is in its third year. Now that we have started, we can go on for three years as well if we have to."



Flood fun: Children of the Tondo slum district in the Philippines capital, Manila, celebrating the first heavy rains in three months by turning the main street into an instant paddling pool. Manila welcomed the downpour, which came after reservoirs had reached critically low levels

Muslim leader's killing sparks Kashmir violence

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

TWENTY-SEVEN people died yesterday as Kashmir was plunged into further violence after the assassination of a leading political and religious figure by gunmen who burst into his home in Srinagar, the state capital.

Crowds stormed the hospital where Mirwaiz Maulvi Farooq died yesterday, to take away his body. Security forces opened fire as the corpse was carried through the streets, killing 27 and injuring 300, police and hospital sources said. Witnesses said some bullets hit the body. A curfew was immediately imposed.

Maulvi Farooq, the prayer leader in the state's principal mosque, dominated the political scene in the Kashmir Valley for nearly 30 years, although he never contested an election. He advocated a referendum to determine the future of the state, which in effect meant choosing between independence or joining Pakistan. He had recently favoured an independent, reunited Kashmir. From his hospital bed, where he died shortly after admission, he is said to have urged all separatist organizations to unite, and told his followers to continue the fight for self-determination.

The shooting is bound to inflame tensions in the valley, where a crushing security presence had brought relative calm and raised hopes in Delhi that a political initiative might soon be possible. That hope now seems to have been dashed. Maulvi Farooq, aged 43, rose to prominence in 1964 when all Kashmir was in

turmoil after the theft of a holy relic, the Sacred Hair, said to be from the Prophet's head.

He launched the Awami Action Committee, which then advocated a pro-Pakistan strategy. He also headed the Sacred Hair Action Committee and led several peaceful processions in Srinagar.

The life of the Mirwaiz has been threatened many times by political rivals, including a particularly militant fundamentalist group, Hizbul Mujahidin. Yesterday three men entered his house at Nagin Lake and shot him.

He became the Mirwaiz in May 1962 after his uncle, Maulvi Yusuf Shah, the former Mirwaiz, fled to Pakistan. He was an arch-rival of Sheikh Abdullah, the former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, who died in 1982.

Maulvi Farooq formed an alliance with the Sheikh's son, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, the new Chief Minister, which routed the Congress (I) party in the 1983 state assembly elections. They parted company when the Chief Minister made an accord with Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister, in 1986.

that he merely represented the other side of the coin of a corrupt and uncaring establishment.

The authorities here on fairly convincing evidence, that Libya had financed, armed and trained the National Liberation Front's hard core of fighters — allegedly in base camps in Burkina Faso — did nothing to improve Mr. Taylor's self-projected image as a noble patriot and liberator.

Yet even the newspapers closely associated with the Doe regime concede that the threat from Mr. Taylor's forces must not be underestimated. "It would be mad to say the war in Nimba county is a joke," said a recent editorial in *The News*. "The rebels' ability must not be under-rated... particularly when they have stood their ground for nearly five months now."

At the same time, there is considerable bitterness among officials here about what is regarded as Mr. Taylor's manipulation of the foreign media. The BBC World Service — listened to with voracious

Tokyo finds words for Korea apology

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

AFTER weeks of haggling in Tokyo's corridors of power, and just days before President Roh of South Korea arrives for a three-day visit, the Japanese Government has finally agreed on a phrase to express remorse for its harsh 35-year rule of South Korea.

But it may be too vague to make up for Tokyo's awkward dithering over how Japan should formally apologize for its colonization of Korea from 1910 to 1945.

The *Yomiuri* newspaper here yesterday quoted government officials as saying that Mr. Toshiki Kaifu, the Japanese Prime Minister, would tell his visitor: "Because of our country's act, the people on the Korean peninsula experienced unbearable hardships and sorrows at one period in the past." It may not be as explicit or as contrite as the apology being demanded by millions of angry Koreans, who feel Mr. Roh has no business visiting Tokyo, and are seething over a remark last week by a Japanese government official that Tokyo had no need to "prostrate" itself by having Emperor Akihito apologize to South Korea for

what was done in the name of his father, Hirohito.

The visit has turned into another test of Mr. Roh's leadership when he is being challenged by Korea's annual throng of spring protesters, domestic economic problems, and by complaints about his ruling party. In order to hold his head high, Mr. Roh is now under pressure to return to Seoul with a clear apology in his pocket.

Adding to the tension, Japanese police are putting Tokyo on full security alert to protect Mr. Roh from possible acts of terrorism by pro-North Korean left-wingers and by equally vociferous anti-Korean right-wing extremists.

Mr. Lee Hong Koo, an aide to Mr. Roh who has been in Tokyo to prepare for the President's visit, said most Koreans — who were once forced to speak Japanese, adopt Japanese names, and worship Hirohito as a living god — still viewed Japan with suspicion. "Koreans are not really sure of the depth of sincerity on the part of the Japanese," he said. "Some feel that what the Japanese regret is that they lost the war."

China to retain US trade status

From Martin Fletcher
Washington

PRESIDENT Bush is expected to announce this week that he will renew China's preferential trading status with the United States, despite Peking's continued abuse of human rights. Administration officials and Western diplomats believe however that his decision will be qualified.

The conditions have yet to be finalized, but may include an explicit declaration that the status will be revoked unless China's human-rights record improves. Even with conditions, such a decision would encounter formidable opposition in Congress. Opponents would undoubtedly seek to reverse it, although it is doubtful that they could muster the two-thirds majority necessary to override a presidential veto.

Those who support renewal have been lobbied hard, both by American companies eager to continue trade with China and representatives of the Hong Kong Government. Last night Sir David Wilson, Hong Kong's Governor, was expected to tell the Asia Society in New York of the dire economic consequences for the colony if China's Most Favoured Nation trading status were revoked.

The colony re-exported \$8.5 billion (£5 billion) worth of Chinese goods to the US last year — about 12 per cent of Hong Kong's total 1989 exports. China itself sold more than \$12 billion worth of goods to the United States during the course of the year at an average tariff rate of 8.3 per cent, according to the US-China Business Council.

● Mystery deepens: In a further twist to the mystery of the disappearance three weeks ago of Mr. Xu Jiatan, the former head of the New China News Agency bureau in Hong Kong, a monk from the Taiwan-based Fo-Kuang Shan Temple told reporters in Los Angeles at the weekend that Mr. Xu was staying in a quiet place in southern California but would not request political asylum (Susan Elliott writes).

Mr. Xu's decision to leave his home in Nanking with his wife and family without seeking official permission embarrassed the Chinese Government, which summoned four of his colleagues to Peking and informed other employees of the news agency in Hong Kong, which is effectively the embassy, that they would be allowed to stay a maximum of three years in the colony.

Suave guerrilla leader leaves Doe regime reeling

From Philip Jacobson
Monrovia

THIS time last year, Mr. Charles Taylor's reputation in Liberia frankly stank. Accused of embezzling vast amounts of public money here, on the run for jumping bail in Boston after the US had agreed to extradite him, the man who now leads the rebel forces, pressing relentlessly forward against government troops, was deeply mistrusted by many Liberians, who recalled his previous unflinching support for the regime of President Doe.

A smooth and articulate politician in his early forties, more accustomed to wheeling and dealing, Mr. Taylor hardly seemed the stuff of a guerrilla leader in the sweltering bush. Even after his original column of some 100 lightly armed insurgents had crossed into the mountainous terrain of Nimba county last Christmas Eve and begun attacking government outposts, the feeling persisted among many ordinary Liberians that his challenge to the administration was doomed, and

interest by many Liberians — has come in for particular hammering for allegedly providing the rebel leader with a platform to "peddle some horrific misinformation about the conflict in Liberia".

The mood in government circles was not improved with the BBC's report last week (picked up by one bold local newspaper) of a visit by foreign journalists to a key rebel base in the captured town of Tappita. It appears that Mr. Taylor addressed a press conference there, a stinging gesture since Tappita had previously been designated by the Government as a centre where rebel troops could go to surrender.

According to journalists who were taken there, the guerrillas are now in possession of a powerful radio transmitter, formerly operated by the Mid-Liberian Baptist Mission, and so they now have a powerful asset to wage a propaganda war.

Those who remember the rebel leader personally from his days as a man of power and influence in Monrovia say Mr. Taylor has no specific political objectives beyond

overthrowing President Doe. In what looks like an attempt to play down the alleged Libyan connection — which he vehemently denies — Mr. Taylor has let it be known that he will retain Liberia's present free-market policies and has also talked of holding regular elections within five years of taking power.

While foreign human rights organizations have strongly criticized the conduct of government troops in Nimba county, there is first-hand evidence that the rebels here have been responsible for killing civilians belonging to President Doe's own tribe, the Krahn, in areas they have overrun. Mr. Taylor has so far not personally responded to these allegations, though he is understandably quick to claim credit for the generally disciplined behaviour of his guerrillas. There are unconfirmed reports that his troops have both paid for food and issued receipts for requisitioned vehicles.

An important factor determining what happens next in Liberia will be how the US — formerly a staunch supporter of the Doe administration

— is planning to jump should Mr. Taylor's forces continue to gain ground. When he first appeared on the scene as guerrilla leader, the word from Washington was that this fugitive from American justice was "a discredited figure". The initial incursion of his rebels was condemned by the US.

Some observers believe that the US has recently offered its services as mediator between President Doe and Mr. Taylor, hoping against hope that some kind of deal, which might spare Liberia from further bloodshed, can be reached. But since Mr. Taylor clearly believes that he is on the road to victory after less than six months' conflict, working out any compromise with the man he once served is not going to be easy.

● Street fighting: There has still been no official response to persistent speculation that Buchanan — 90 miles south of here — has witnessed two days of fierce street fighting. There has also been no confirmation that government troops were dispatched towards the second city from the capital over the weekend.

Australian plan for alcohol curb

Sydney — Australia, home to some famous makes of beer and led by a Prime Minister, Mr. Bob Hawke, who once held a world record for beer drinking, is facing a possible ban on alcohol advertising.

The move, by Senator Janet Powell, to introduce legislation in the August session of the Australian Parliament, was immediately denounced by a brewery chief. (Reuter)

to £10,195... including the... months unlimited... RAC membership

Securitate colonels keep tight grip on corridors of power

From Richard Bassett, Bistrita, Romania

NO ONE attempting to do business with the new "legitimate" Government in Romania after Sunday's elections will be able to avoid the colonels left behind by the despised Securitate of the deposed and executed Nicolae Ceausescu.

According to a report in the independent *Romania Libera* daily, there are nearly 400 Securitate officers of field rank running every one of the country's foreign commerce organizations. All key positions in the Ministry of Foreign Commerce are similarly occupied by colonels, while several senior officers of the Securitate have emerged as ambassadors to Western Europe and the Middle East, the report claims.

Colonel Pirvutiu Constantin has been appointed an ambassador to the European

Community. His number two is a Major Cristea, his former Securitate head of station in Paris. In Vienna, a Colonel Iancu has appeared as a senior Chancery official, while Colonel Mateescu and Negritu have been dispatched in diplomatic capacities to Warsaw and Washington respectively.

In Bucharest itself, the Foreign Commerce Department is riddled with senior colonels. In charge of agricultural export is the diminutive Colonel Stoiculescu, a fine poker player whose table at the Bucharest Casa Armata is always full.

Exports of fruit are, however, in a separate department controlled by Major Cornacu whose love of horses is legendary within the narrow equestrian circle which today's cavalry officer in Bucharest must frequent.

All metal exports are dealt with by a Colonel Ghita, while the cryptically named "Pera" enterprise dealing with minerals is run by Lieutenant-Colonel Dumitrescu, a bluff figure whose only fault would appear to be an indecent enthusiasm for filling 15 positions in his department with his relations.

Anyone who has dined in the colonels' room at the Casa Armata will agree that these men, so untrained in the ways of modern business and woefully unequipped with certificates from prestigious business schools, nevertheless remain formidable negotiators able to outwit the sharpest of pin-striped Western bankers. "We have had to negotiate for our lives. After that, everything else is easy," said Major Badulescu, responsible for the firm of Chimica Liechtenstein, which has branches in Greece and Switzerland.

"Do you in England also not have an old officers' network?" asked Colonel Voindiu of the ill-defined "Rowo" export company. "Yes, what about Enzil and 'arrow'?" demanded Colonel Voiculescu of the "Crescent" enterprise, which has offices in Cyprus and Austria.

But it is in the international departments of the foreign commerce organization which co-ordinates aid for Romania that the presence of so many field officers in time of peace is most intriguing.

The director of the Asian department, which theoretically will oversee Japanese investment in Romania, is Colonel Talpas. In charge of Europe is Lieutenant Calau whose red-cheeked appearance suggests that he still takes seriously Romania's memorable first order on general mobilization in 1916 that only officers of field rank should be allowed to wear woe.

Both Colonel Mihoc (German department) and Colonel Berinde (EC department) point out in the report that there is no reason why they should not be allowed to continue employing their "expertise" for the good of the country.

They observe that now, without Ceausescu's family, they can harness to Romania the Western technology which has for so long been denied them. In this way, as the report wryly notes, an old system has not so much been abandoned as perfected.

Leading article, page 15

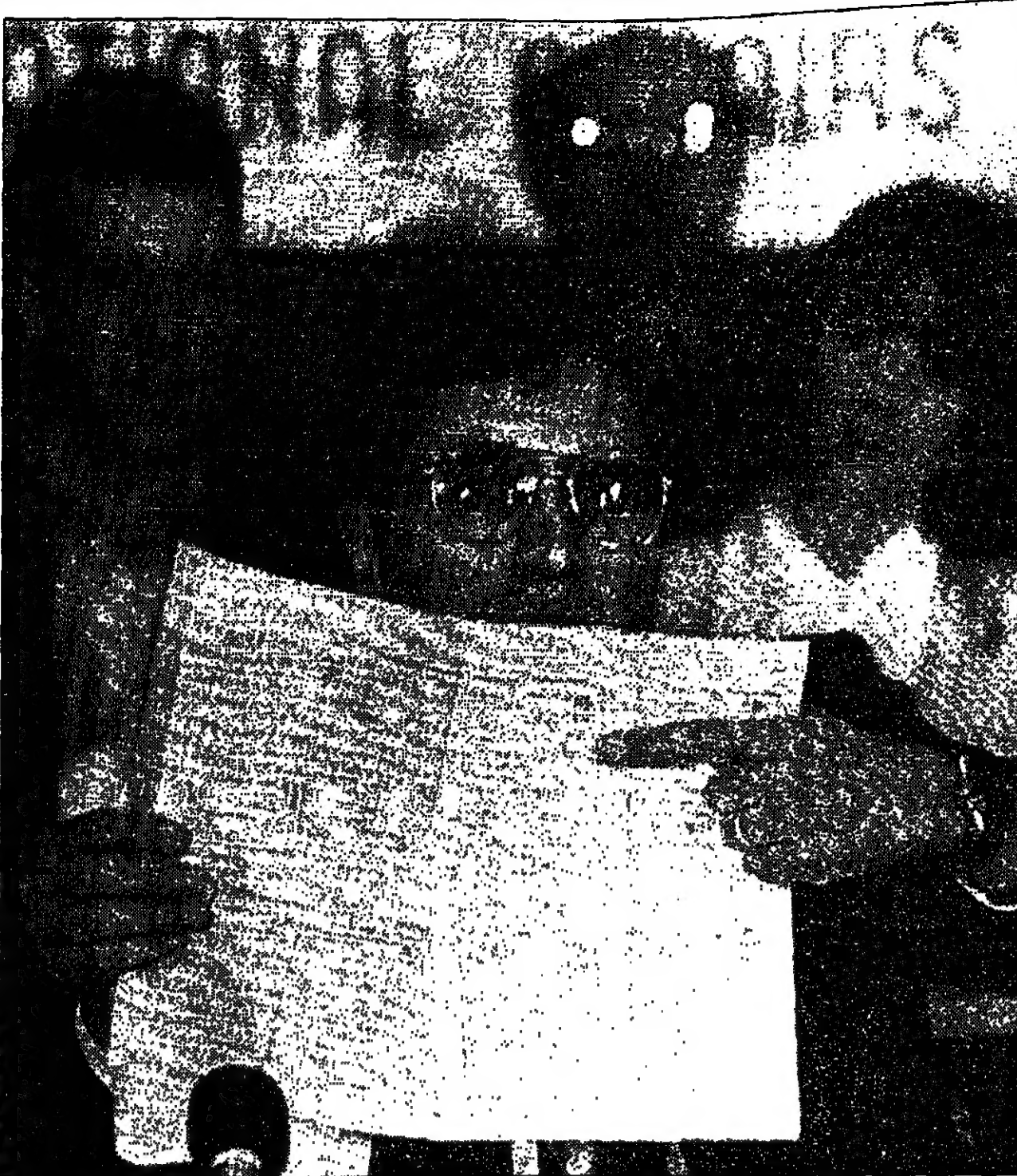
Communist property is seized

Prague

THE Czechoslovak Government yesterday said that it was expropriating Communist Party property worth nearly five billion crowns (£18 million), almost totally freezing its property assets.

Mrs Kvetoslava Korinkova, a Cabinet minister, told a news conference that the Government approved a decree seizing property worth 4.9 billion crowns which was used by the party. "The expropriation of all property will take effect from June 1 and all contracts already entered into (for the sale or transfer of property) will become invalid," she said.

The measure follows weeks of mass protests demanding that the Communist Party return property acquired during its 41 years in power. As head of the People's Inspection Commission, a government auditing and investigation department, Mrs Korinkova led an enquiry ordered by parliament into the property owned or used by political parties before last November's revolution. "We found great differences between the property of the Communist Party, which totalled up to 9.5 billion crowns and the other parties, whose combined total was some 30 million." (Reuters)



Pointed accusation: Mr Harrison Schmitt, a US observer at the Romanian elections, displaying a ballot paper he claims was marked in favour of the National Salvation Front before it was handed to a voter

Russian strike fails to take hold in Estonia

From Anatol Lieven, Tallinn, Estonia

A STRIKE by Russian-speaking workers against Estonian independence seems, so far, to be considerably smaller than a similar one last year — and Estonian officials are saying that "a corner may have been turned" in relations between the nationalities.

Only an estimated 30,000 workers in 18 enterprises joined the strike, which is a relatively small proportion of the 39 per cent of the non-Estonian population which constitutes a majority of the industrial workforce.

The strike will in most cases last only two days. But Mr Yuri Sokolov, a strike committee member, said that some enterprises might continue striking up to the summit between Presidents Gorbachov and Bush at the end of this month, "because we want the world to know how we feel".

Unlike last summer's strike,

municipal bus drivers, who are overwhelmingly Russian, have not joined in. Mr Vitaly Chassotin, a bus driver, suggested that the poor response to the strike may be due to the fact that "the strikes last year didn't lead to any result". He also said the Estonian Government's endorsement of a new Soviet law banning political strikes had an effect on the drivers.

Mr Johann Hindov, the prime minister's press secretary, told journalists yesterday that the Government had not decided whether to treat this strike as political, and therefore punishable under the law.

Among the enterprises on strike are parts of the commercial port, which is only handling exports; the railway freight service; and local Aero-flight flights. Passenger trains and international flights are unaffected. Shipyards, a rail-

way repair plant, and electronics factories are also involved. The strikes took place both in Tallinn and in Russian-dominated factories elsewhere, including the Russian majority areas of north-eastern Estonia.

Almost all the workers on strike are in "all-union" factories, owned and controlled by Moscow, but the strikes are generally being encouraged and organized by the management, which are linked to the official trade unions.

This may be one reason for the unenthusiastic response of the workers. They are already worried at the prospect of unemployment, and irritated enough at their standard of living, and in this linkage of forces, there was no possibility of alleviating workers' economic discontent given the political nature of the exercise.

At the RET electronics factory, the workers were all opposed to independence, but most were unenthusiastic about the strike. Of the 3,500 workers at the plant, only some 800 turned up to a meeting at which managers and party officials argued for the strike. Of these, only 62 per cent voted in favour.

In Lithuania yesterday the leadership met to draft a message to Mr Gorbachov, after parliament sidestepped on Saturday its renewed demand that it suspend its declaration of independence. Mrs Kazimiera Prunskiene, the Prime Minister, has tabled for consideration a new offer to "suspend the implementation of the independence process".

But her formula does not fundamentally go any further than the offer she made to the Kremlin last week, which Mr Gorbachov rejected.

Signal by Nato of defence cutbacks

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

NATO defence ministers are expected today to end the requirement for alliance members to increase defence spending by 3 per cent a year in real terms. The decision, expected at the Nato Defence Planning Committee in Brussels, will be seen as the clearest sign that the alliance intends to start cutting military spending because of the reduced threat.

Although many member countries, including Britain, have failed to keep to the 3 per cent figure for some time, the official guideline set by the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, has remained as official Nato policy. Today the defence ministers are expected to acknowledge realities and cancel the 3 per cent guideline.

The two-day Defence Planning Committee meeting will also start to prepare the groundwork for a long-term strategy review, which is to be formally set in motion at the heads of government summit in London in July.

The ministers will begin to assess how far Nato should adapt its strategy for conventional and nuclear forces deployed in Europe. One of the other principal issues confronting them will be the new problems that have arisen at the Conventional Forces in Europe talks in Vienna.

● STOCKHOLM: So far the end of the Cold War has brought about only a disappointing dividend, with world spending on armaments falling by just 2 per cent last year to \$950 billion (£562 billion), the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute said yesterday (Christopher Mosey writes).

Baker silent on Soviet trade treaty

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

MR JAMES Baker, the US Secretary of State, has conspicuously failed to list a bilateral trade treaty among the accords he expects Presidents Bush and Gorbachov to sign at their Washington summit beginning in eight days.

The omission underscores earlier hints from aides that the US is making the signing of such a treaty conditional on the Soviet Union ending its economic squeeze on Lithuania and opening genuine negotiations with Baltic independence movements.

According to one report here yesterday, Mr Baker made the link explicitly during his Moscow talks last week with Mr Gorbachov and Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister. The trade treaty is virtually complete, but Mr Baker made no mention of it in his weekend statement after the talks, and spoke only of several lesser commercial agreements to be signed at the summit. These included a grains agreement and a maritime transportation agreement.

With the Soviet economy in crisis, Mr Gorbachov probably needs the trade treaty even more than he needs arms control agreements. It is a necessary precursor to the US granting the Soviet Union Most Favoured Nation trading status.

US officials have meanwhile returned from the Moscow talks with the view that Mr Gorbachov is still firmly in control but is paying greater deference to the Soviet military than he has in the past. They remarked on the unprecedented presence at the Kremlin negotiations of Colonel-General Bronislav Omelchikov, First Deputy Chief of Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces and probably the second most powerful general in the Soviet military.

At one point Mr Baker believed he had reached firm agreement with Mr Gorbachov on which air-launched cruise missiles would be covered by the strategic arms limitation treaty, only for the Soviet military to refuse to accept it. Mr Baker responded by writing directly to Mr Shevardnadze, warning that all deals were off unless this agreement was reinstated. It promptly was.

One official told *The New York Times* that Mr Gorbachov's conduct during the talks suggested he "certainly does not want to alienate the military at a time when he is being criticized for failing to improve the domestic quality of life, for allowing the union to disintegrate and for allowing an erosion of their overall security position". The officials said Mr Gorbachov openly acknowledged the range of pressing domestic problems he faced, appeared less than sure he could ultimately surmount them all, and at one point appealed to Mr Baker not to tax him with minor issues.

● BRUSSELS: Soviet leaders told Mr Baker in Moscow that a united Germany could not join Nato and that their hands were tied over the Lithuanian crisis, alliance sources said here yesterday after senior American officials briefed Nato ambassadors about the Secretary of State's trip.

The tough Moscow line on the two issues contrasted strongly with the announced results of Mr Baker's Moscow talks, which laid the ground for agreements to cut strategic nuclear missiles and chemical weapons. (Reuters)

Bulgarian opposition refuses to sign pact

Sofia

THE Bulgarian opposition, which is preparing to fight the former Communist Party in elections next month, unexpectedly refused to sign a pre-election agreement yesterday and complained of campaign malpractices.

A televised signing ceremony at the offices of the state President and former Communist Party leader, Mr Petar Mladenov, erupted into chaos as the opposition Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) and more than 30 other opposition groups refused to sign and read out statements of complaint to the cameras.

Mr Zhelev Zhelev, the UDF president, said that his group

agreed in principle with the document, which sets out provisions against intimidation before the elections on June 10 and 17. But he said the UDF was worried by some pre-electoral malpractices and felt the Communists — now renamed the Socialist Party — had staged the televised ceremony as a propaganda stunt.

"We are upset by conditions in the country," Mr Zhelev said.

Thirty-three political groups signed the document and a further 12 signed with reservations. Thirty-five organizations, including the UDF and the former official trade union federation, refused to sign.

Meanwhile, the tent city dwellers have begun to complain about the "neighbours" in tones that sound more than a little plaintive. Miss Dumitra Stancu, an art student, moaned that yesterday morning some "aggressive" Front supporters had come to taunt them. They shouted: "Go to work — stop making love and taking drugs here."

Revolutions are not made of prim complaints such as this.



A Lithuanian housewife in Vilnius buying pork, in plentiful supply despite Moscow's economic boycott

Gorbachov drafts personal pension plan

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

WHEN the pressures of office become too great, President Gorbachov can reflect that he is the only leader in Soviet history who can look forward to a comfortable retirement when his 10-year presidency comes to an end. Unlike all but one of his predecessors, who died in office, it emerged yesterday that the Soviet leader has made provisions for his pension.

True, the plan cannot hope to compete with the likes of Mr Ronald Reagan, who Mr Gorbachov will visit at his retirement mansion in California next month, but by Soviet standards the package promises a life of continued privilege.

In details published yesterday, it emerged that the state will pay Mr Gorbachov 1,500 roubles (£1,500) a month — more than 20 times the basic Soviet retirement pension — and will

provide a state retirement home with staff, security and transport.

Although such provision has been the rule for retired ministers and Central Committee members before, the only Soviet leader to have benefited from such provision was Khrushchev, who was ousted by Brezhnev in 1964, and dispatched to the country in obscurity. All other Soviet leaders have died in office.

Having taken the new post of Executive President in March, Mr Gorbachov has — under the present constitution — a maximum of 10 years in office. He would then be 66 — one year over the recently set retirement age for party and state figures standing for office. Over the past year he has threatened to resign at two closed party meetings, but each threat was couched in rhetorical and hypothetical terms along the lines of: "If the party will not support these policies, I will have no alternative ... but to

resign". President Gorbachov made sure yesterday that he would be well provided for in and out of office. Under the revised version of a resolution on the presidency, given its second and final reading in the Supreme Soviet yesterday, the Soviet President will have a salary of 4,000 roubles a month — more than 16 times the average Soviet wage — but he will be subject to tax, leaving him with a net income of 2,300 roubles a month.

The first draft of the legislation had proposed a salary of 2,500 roubles tax-free. But the tax-free status had displeased many parliamentary deputies and the party's youth newspaper, *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, ran a front page editorial saying that it was better the Soviet President had a salary that was internationally competitive and paid tax than had a lower salary that was tax-free. The President will also be entitled to a Moscow flat, tied to the job, a country house near Moscow

and a holiday home in the Crimea. He will have, in addition, a fleet of aircraft, helicopters and cars. His security and that of his family are entrusted to the KGB.

All these were usual accoutrements of a Soviet leader, but were never set out in public before.

Controversial new legislation on protecting the "honour and dignity" of the President — that would make it a criminal offence to insult the President in public — was given its first reading 10 days ago but sent back for redrafting because so many deputies objected to the vagueness of the law's wording. The draft law was introduced as soon as the Supreme Soviet reconvened after the May holiday period, during which Mr Gorbachov had been confronted by a hostile crowd of demonstrators in Red Square calling for his retirement.

Woodrow Wyatt, page 14

'Centrist' institute picks right-winger as director

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

THE Royal Institute of International Affairs — attacked by Tory right-wingers for "hard-line" centrist views — has appointed as its next director an academic noted for his robust views on defence.

Professor Laurence Martin, Vice-Chancellor of Newcastle University, will succeed Admiral Sir James Eberle from next January. He established a firm reputation as a man of the right during nine years as professor of war studies at King's College, London.

He once said of the US involvement in Vietnam: "There were two big mistakes. The first was going in; the second was not winning." His publications include *The Sea in Modern Strategy* and his 1981 BBC Reith lectures, *The Two-Edged Sword*.

A colleague said yesterday: "He is a man of the right rather than the centre-right. He does not correspond with the soft image some have attributed to Chatham House (the institute's headquarters). He is thought by most defence professionals to be a hard

rather than a soft man." Professor Martin's Reith lectures argued against unilateral disarmament. The world, he said in essence, must learn to live with the Bomb. In another lecture he pointed to the dangers which would arise if Third World countries obtained nuclear weapons.

An anonymous article in *The Sunday Telegraph* eight



Professor Martin: Noted for robust defence views

days ago accused Chatham House of being "the voice of the Extreme Moderates". It said such people enjoyed attending international conferences and reading discussion papers but failed "to understand the real world".

The staff, celebrating the institute's 70th anniversary, were angered but also entertained and secretly flattered by the headline "Hard-line Moderate".

Mr George Robertson, a Labour foreign policy spokesman who has lectured at Chatham House, said in a letter to the same newspaper on Sunday: "Perhaps one of the least-welcome 70th birthday presents the institute could have expected would have been an endorsement from Peregrine Worsthorne. So to be dubbed 'hard-line moderate' is no dishonour."

Lord Callaghan, co-president of Chatham House, said yesterday it was vital for the international standing of Britain to have such a forum, and appealed for £4 million to expand its work.

Baker silent on Soviet trade treaty

From Martin Fletcher Washington

R JAMES Baker, the US Secretary of State, has conspicuously failed to list a trade treaty among his priorities for the summit. He expects President Bush and Gorbachev to sign a trade treaty at their Washington summit beginning in eight days. The omission underscores the US position on trade. Baker has made it clear that such a treaty is conditional on the Soviet Union ending its economic squeeze on Lithuania and opening genuine negotiations with Baltic independence movements.

According to one report, Baker was silent on trade yesterday. Mr Baker made the link explicitly during his Moscow talks last week. He told Gorbachev and the Soviet Foreign Minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, that the trade treaty is virtually a condition of it. But Baker made no mention of it in his weekend statement after the talks, and only of several lesser agreements at the summit. These included a grain agreement and a maritime transportation agreement.

With the Soviet economy in crisis, Mr Gorbachev probably needs the trade treaty more than he needs arms control agreements. It is a necessary precursor to the US granting the Soviet Union most favoured nation trading status.

US officials have made little return from the Moscow talks with the view that the Soviet Union is still far from ready to accept the trade treaty. Baker's silence on the issue may be a sign that he is not ready to announce a trade treaty at the summit.

At the summit, Mr Baker delivered a speech in which he said that the US would be ready to negotiate a trade treaty with the Soviet Union. He said that the US would be ready to negotiate a trade treaty with the Soviet Union.

Mr Baker's silence on the trade treaty may be a sign that he is not ready to announce a trade treaty at the summit. He may be waiting for a more favourable opportunity to announce the treaty.

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Ghosts of murdered candidates haunt Colombian election

From Alan Tomlinson, Bogotá

THE ghosts of three slain candidates haunt this blood-soaked nation as it staggers through a presidential election being fought alongside a much fiercer struggle against the violent drug traffickers.

Colombian voters will find the name of a dead man on the ballot papers when they go to the polls on Sunday, the face of another state defiantly from campaign billboards; and, stalked by assassins, the front-runner in the race travels rarely, and always with a posse of bodyguards, a doctor, and an ambulance.

"Now in Colombia, death is the chief selector," lamented Señor Carlos Lemus, the former Interior Minister, when a guerrilla leader who had sworn armed struggle to join the electoral field was shot dead by a gunman on board a crowded airliner. The opposition newspaper *La Prensa* declared that the country had exchanged free elections for a bloody knock-out contest.

Police attribute the rash of murders and car bombings which have dogged the election campaign to Pablo Escobar, the leader of the notorious Medellín cocaine cartel. But seasoned observers

of a political culture steeped in bloodshed say that right-wing death squads may equally well be using the drug war as a cover to wipe out opponents, and draw the country towards authoritarian solutions.

Amid the carnage, the surviving candidates have virtually abandoned public rallies, and the last weeks of the campaign have been conducted almost exclusively in the media.

The rampant bombings have killed dozens of people, mainly innocent bystanders, in what authorities describe as an offensive by the cartel to weaken Colombian resolve to pursue the drug war and force the Government to negotiate a *modus vivendi* with the powerful cocaine empire.

Another car bomb went off in Bogotá on Sunday night, wounding seven. However, as the grim campaign drew to a close last week, President Barco vowed to give no quarter in the offensive he launched last August when his likely successor, Luis Carlos Galán, was shot dead at a public meeting.

The ruling Liberal Party's replacement candidate, Señor César Gaviria, the former

campaign manager, has pledged to continue the crack-down if, as the polls predict, he is chosen to take over from Señor Barco on August 7.

At 43, he would be the youngest president in Colombian history. He has promised to form a government of national unity in which all sectors of the country's bitterly divided politics would be invited to join forces against their common enemy.

Señor Gaviria's uncompromising approach has singled him out as the most likely target for yet another assassination attempt. Against the advice of security forces, he made a rare personal appearance on Sunday at the closing event of his campaign, a youth rally in a covered sports arena in the capital.

With police sharpshooters positioned on the roof, and tanks guarding the entrance, Señor Gaviria arrived at the tail-end of the rally. His slim frame, bloated by a bullet-proof vest, was hardly visible amid a throng of machine-gun-toting bodyguards.

Paying tribute to his murdered predecessor for having awakened a spirit of change in the country, he told his young

audience: "The moment has come to confront Colombia's problems and to give the country hope for the future. We must defend ourselves against the violent ones, whether they are drug traffickers, narco-terrorists, paramilitaries, guerrillas or common criminals."

While Señor Gaviria braved the threats against him to make a final campaign appearance, his main left-wing opponent, Señor Antonio Navarro, has been in hiding since the night assassination last month of Carlos Pizarro, his predecessor as leader of the M19 guerrilla organization.

The assassination came just weeks after the group's belated entry into the race after a formal renunciation of arms. Señor Navarro, who wears an artificial leg after a grenade

attack on his left five years ago, has confined his campaign to television.

The main conservative opposition is seeking to oust the Liberals for the first time in 20 years by advocating dialogue with the cocaine traffickers in the hope of capitalizing on a perceived weariness with the drug war among the nation's 13 million projected voters. Señor Rod-

rigo Lloreda, the Social Conservative Party's candidate, proposes negotiating an end to cocaine trafficking in exchange for a cessation of the drug war.

But his constituency has been split by the emergence of a strong breakaway faction called the National Salvation Party, whose leader, Señor Alvaro Gómez, goes even further by proposing the le-

galization of cocaine as the only viable means of undermining the illegal industry.

The three principal forces in the election are connected by a bizarre coincidence somehow typical of Colombia: Señor Gómez was kidnapped by Señor Navarro's guerrilla group in 1983, and it was Señor Gaviria, as Interior Minister at the time, who negotiated his release.



Bodyguards shielding Señor César Gaviria against assassination attempts as he ends his presidential campaign at a Liberal rally in Bogotá

Troops surround riot township

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

SOUTH African troops surrounded a black township in the Orange Free State after a weekend of rioting and looting in which seven people were killed and about 40 wounded by police gunfire.

The violence erupted in Thabong on Sunday, shortly after a community meeting decided to suspend a black boycott of white businesses in the adjacent gold-mining town of Welkom. As the rally dispersed, about 1,000 miners and 500 youths formed a procession, apparently intending to march to the town.

Police allowed the workers to catch transport to mine hostels, but ordered the youths back into the township. Angered by the decision to lift the boycott and by police action, the youths began attacking police vehicles with stones and petrol bombs. A police spokesman said tear gas, rubber bullets and birdshot were fired at mobs which set fire to buildings and built roadblocks of burning tyres.

An ambulance which entered the township to evacuate the wounded was stoned and badly damaged. Troops then surrounded the area as riot police battled mobs attacking the homes of policemen and local councillors, and business premises.

Unrest spread to the nearby town of Virginia, where a man was trampled to death but, despite the clashes, normal working resumed at the mines on Sunday night, and the area was reported tense but relatively quiet yesterday. The region became a flashpoint for racial strife last week when two white mining officials were killed and 18 blacks and whites were hurt in a riot at the President Steyn mine.

Nineteen black miners appeared in court yesterday in connection with the murders, but no charges were read. They were remanded until July 31.

The conflict between the conservative white community and black migrant workers, demanding an end to discriminatory practices on the mines, has been sharpened by the consumer boycott and heavy-handed reaction by white vigilantes. It presents a serious threat to the South African economy, which relies heavily on gold earnings.

The latest clashes came after urgent peace talks on Saturday chaired by Mr Adriaan Vlok, the Minister of Law and Order, who negotiated an agreement by executives of the Anglo American Corporation and officials of separate black and white trade unions to form joint committees to tackle the conflict's roots.

Mr Lionel Hewitt, the managing director of the company's gold division, said the accord was a breakthrough in that it established for the first time a mechanism for the racially segregated unions to resolve disputes in consultation with the Chamber of Mines.

The subsequent decision to suspend the black boycott was a step towards reconciliation, but Blanke Veiligheid (White Security), a local vigilante organization, threatened further racial strife yesterday by announcing it was resuming night patrols of white suburbs.

The decision reversed a commitment to Mr Vlok that it would suspend such activities for three months, but Mr Hennie Muller, the group's leader, said whites feared for their safety after the violence.

Mr Adriaan Vlok: Riots a blow to peace efforts



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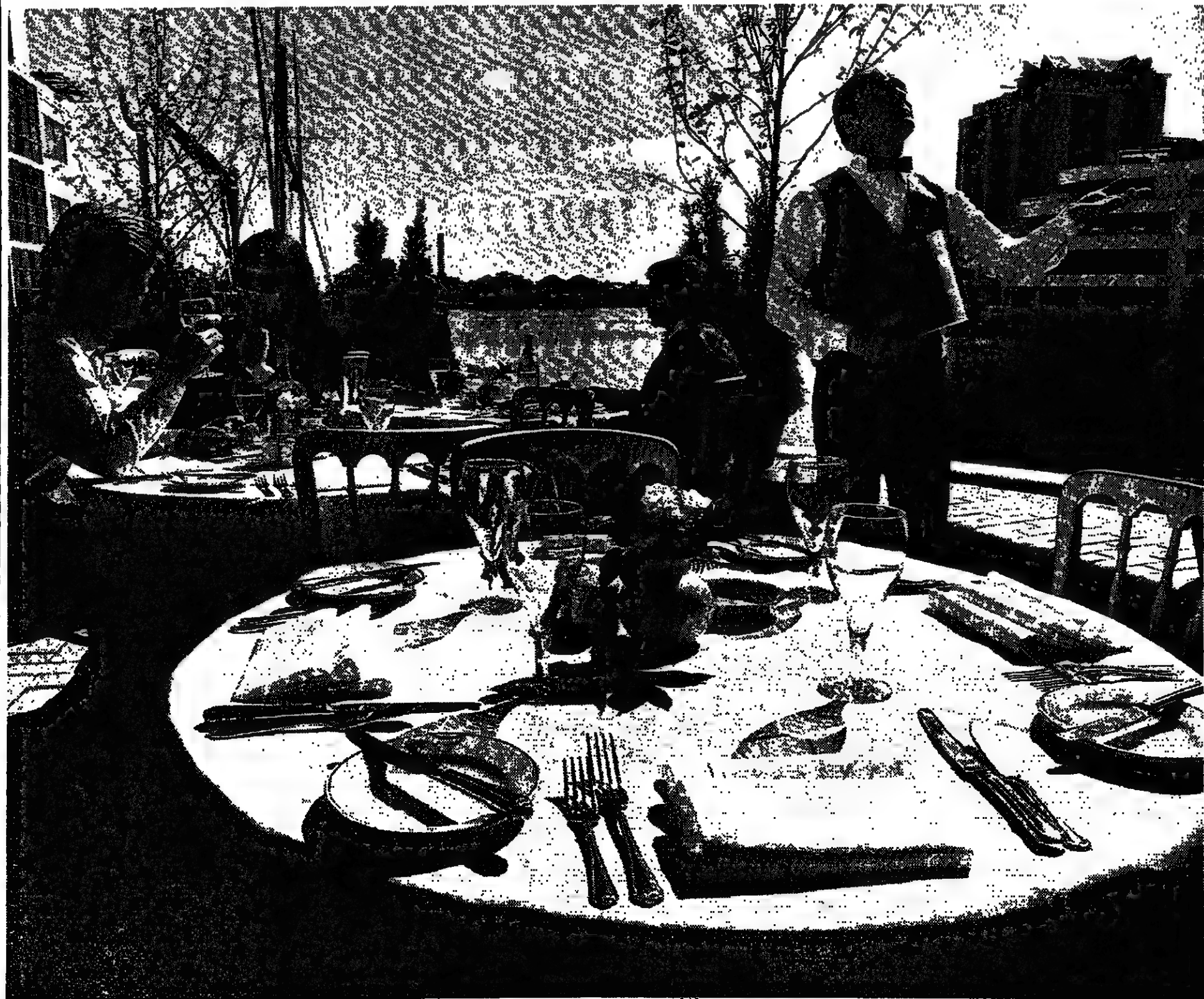
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Prime suit

Wellington - Mr Geoffrey Palmer, the Prime Minister, has sued Television New Zealand for alleged libel over a programme about his Government's links with big business. (Reuters)

TV bullfights

Madrid - Spanish television will go on broadcasting bullfights abroad, despite protests from British animal lovers. (Reuters)

Massacre claim

Lusaka - Hundreds of Zambian students demonstrated here after reports that 150 Zairian university students had been massacred by soldiers in Lubumbashi. (AFP)

Strike blockade

Warsaw - Striking railmen blocked tracks in north-western Poland despite a personal appeal by Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Prime Minister. (Reuters)

Syria invited

West Beirut - President Assad of Syria has received an Iraqi envoy carrying an invitation to the Arab summit in Baghdad on May 28.

Air force purge

Ankara - The Turkish Air Force expelled 114 officers for contacts with extreme right-wing Islamic fundamentalist organizations. (AFP)

Yemenis approve merger

Aden - South Yemen's Parliament ratified a merger with North Yemen yesterday, and a formal declaration of the new state is expected within 24 hours, officials said.

Racist police

Sydney - Police committed "an act of racist violence" when 135 officers stormed Aboriginal homes in Sydney and arrested eight Aborigines on minor charges, Australia's Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission said. (Reuters)

Yemenis approve merger

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Gorbachov's hard grind

Woodrow Wyatt

The Soviet Union has enough natural resources to be as rich as the United States. *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, the Young Communists' official organ, recently observed that before 1917 Russia ranked seventh in the world in consumption per head: it is now 77th. After five years of Mr Gorbachov, the Soviet Union continues its drift to ever lower Third World depths. Last Thursday he plaintively complained of the public's fear of new methods: "Changing people's minds is the most difficult thing. *Perestroika* depends on public opinion, and it's conservative."

The official poverty line is £73 a month. This near destitution level afflicts over 40 million. If the poverty line were raised by 50 per cent, which it should be to make a glimmer of sense, nearly half the population would be under it. From housing to soap, from laundry paper to food, the cramped squalor, the shortages and the homelessness are stupefying.

Mr Gorbachov's comparative openness (*glasnost*) has made the public starkly aware of its wretched plight. Restructuring of the system (*perestroika*) was intended to alleviate and eliminate it. *Perestroika* is failing, perhaps irredeemably, because the public is in a split mind about it, as is Mr Gorbachov himself. Changing over to something beginning to approach a free-market economy would cause unemployment for up to 20 million during the transition. Unemployment is already rising alarmingly at the first tentative efforts.

So is envy of those who work in the small co-operatives given some freedom two years ago. Their output has risen nearly 140 times and now amounts to 5 per cent of the gross national product. The number involved in them has risen from 70,000 to 4.5 million. But the many millions stuck on a bare subsistence level in the barnacled, fully state operations resent their success and do not expect it for themselves.

As for Mr Gorbachov, he talks much about Lenin and much about the market economy which he seems to want while putting the brakes on it in alarm at the internal political repercussions. Marxists used to talk of the contradictions of capitalism. Mr Gorbachov's famous book, *Perestroika*, is a mass of contradictions. Absurdly he writes: "my country's progress became possible only thanks to the Revolution... it is the fruit of the new social system." "Later he refers to Lenin's 'utilization of methods which did not seem to be intrinsic to socialism itself'." He means Lenin's famous New Economic Policy, under which private enterprise on the land, in the factories and in business was allowed to flourish, bringing Soviet output by 1925 to 70 per cent of that before 1914. In the name of socialism,

Stalin, Lenin's successor in 1924, soon smashed all that. The country was condemned to descent into ever deepening poverty.

Mr Gorbachov clings to Lenin as the last symbol which can, he hopes, be paraded in justification of the 73 years of laying waste. If he really believes the future lies with Marxist-Leninism controlling slow, timid advances to a market economy, the Soviet Union is doomed. No amount of money poured in from the West can save it. I suspect he is merely playing for time, but there is not much time left.

Mr Gorbachov's tolerance of the departure of the East European puppet states was more realism than idealism. However angry the armed forces may be, it was impossible economically to sustain the military occupation of foreign countries. Ironically, the withdrawal of the occupation troops must be slow because, after living in tolerable conditions abroad, there is nowhere as yet for them and their families to live in the Soviet Union.

It was no surprise that over the weekend Mr Gorbachov was in an agreeably compromising mood with the US negotiations over arms reductions. The only substantial forces he wants to keep are nuclear, and preferably less of them. He has been lecturing the armed forces leaders on their need for *perestroika* but, as with the civilians, he dare not push too far for fear of a backlash.

Mr Gorbachov has given himself new dictatorial powers. After being booted off the platform at the May Day parade, he also wants a law making insults to him punishable with up to six years in jail. While advancing the progress of history he is simultaneously delaying it. This trick would be beyond a Tallyrand. Trying to perform it accounts for his brutal and prevaricating dealings with the Baltic states. But with his *glasnost*, Mr Gorbachov has opened Pandora's Box, releasing demons of criticism and comment. In mythology the only object staying in the box was Hope, which is all he has left.

Mr Gorbachov is beset with a multitude of troubles. Boris Yeltsin yaps at his heels; his chances of winning a genuinely free election, for long slender, diminish daily with each new privatisation. The Church, who did not intend to preside over the liquidation of the British empire, he fights mounting turbulence in all the non-Russian nationalist groupings (half the population) who long to get out from under.

His poise, skills and calm are admirable. If he succeeds he will rank with Lenin in history, but somewhat differently. Last week he remarked: "When Lenin watched a similar revolutionary process he said, 'You know, this chaos will crystallize a new form of life'."

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Let none sneer at Mrs Dorothy Frances Gurney.

Any literature spy enough to spot the fortune to be made by including sundial rights in her contract deserves our special respect, never mind the fact that so commending yourself to your readers that millions of them are prepared to commission a truck to carry your poetry home and two strong men to erect same in rocky clearly bespeaks a talent which has fingered the public pulse like very few. Her works will stand, albeit in many cases slightly askew, long after those of tonier scribblers have crumbled to dust on neglected shelves. That is one of the things about granite.

Nevertheless, I beg leave to dispute her declaration that one is nearer God's heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth. That you have the kiss of the sun for pardon and the song of the birds for mirth, I shall not quarrel with, for poets are a breed apart, and if they are so innocent that a sunbeam can absolve their guilts and a blackbird have them rolling helpless in the shrubbery, it is not for the rest of us to wonder whether they would not be even happier in a rubber room. When, however, Dorothy Frances induces, in her ringing pay-off, the general from the personal, she lays herself open to argument.

For it would have to be a very peculiar God indeed to whose heart nothing than a garden brought one nearer. What one is nearest to in a garden is chaos, frustration, despair, disease, decay, and the wholesale slaughter of as many of God's creatures as one can get a nozzle over. What one is nearest to is God's anger with the first gardener for ignoring what it said on the packet. Clearly, God now deploys the garden in constant reminder of man's first disobedience.

Which is why what Mrs Gurney should have written was that one was nearer God's heart in a garden *centre*. It may be that the canny old bird figured that the cost of chiselling an extra word on a bird-bath might make punters think twice, it may simply be that, like most poets, she believed that scandal should take priority over mere truth, but whatever

the reason, she has left it to me to mop up after her.

For what a garden centre is about is redemption: it is about renewal, redemption, and man's struggle towards perfectibility. Dig up the old, fork in the new. All those uncontaminated seeds, all those immaculately conceived seedlings, all those spotless new implements and trellises! Unrooted stakes! Wall-nails with points! Sprinklers that actually go round! What is this but man's God-given chance to make a fresh start?

And Granville Garden Centre is Cricklewood's paragon. When other helpers fail, and comforts flee, it takes but a moment for the helpless to enter round there, bury their faces in the pinnies of God's kindly acolytes, weepily confess that change and decay in all around them see, and get instantly sorted out. The beacon above the signboard of its untainted premises shines like a good deed in a naughty world.

Or shone.

Did you guess? Did you feel the apocalyptic descent in this morning's witterings? Did it occur to you that yesterday I might have rushed to Granville's, only to be turned away?

An ancient rose-bush had finally succumbed. I bit the lip, and dug it up. I stared at the hole. I needed a new Korresia Floribunda, and I needed it now. I hurried to Granville. I need a rose-bush, I cried. The acolyte shook his head. They're filming in the rose section, he said. I peered. Lights, lenses, mike-booms teetered among the thorns. Oh, I said, a gardening programme, oh that's all right then, it's about time Granville got its rightful place on the horticultural map. I can wait, they won't take long, I know these low-budget jobs.

They'll be here all day, he said. It is not a gardening programme, it is a film about terrorists, they are smuggling Semtex by planting it in rose-tubs, I'd come back tomorrow if I were you. I looked at him. He looked away. They're paying us good money, he said.

Et tu, Granville? The director called for silence; as it fell, did I only imagine the dreadful sursumption of a serpent slithering down a tree?

Conor Cruise O'Brien thinks Brooke's attempted Ulster compromise doomed from the start

No escaping the agreement discord

John Cope, the minister responsible for security in Northern Ireland, sang an old refrain at a conference in Airlie, Virginia, last week: "By achieving political progress," he said, "we can marginalize the terrorists on both sides of the community."

I am sure most of those present will have approved of such a constructive, middle-of-the-road approach. I, too, once found that tune seductive, when I heard it for the first time in Willie Whitehead's Green Paper of 1973, the prelude to the Sunningdale power-sharing agreement. But to hear it again, after 17 years of "political progress", invariably accompanied by unrelenting terrorism, made me want to scream. I could picture Gerry Adams's wolfish grin as he heard that he and his Sinn Féin comrades were again about to be "marginalized" by some ingenious initiative of a British politician.

The initiative this time is the attempt by Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland Secretary, to bring the Unionists and the SDLP together. And, indeed, he seems on the verge of finding a formula

which will get them to the negotiating table to discuss a replacement for the Anglo-Irish agreement. He will continue his efforts at a further meeting in London today with the Unionist leaders James Molyneux and Ian Paisley. Suppose he does get both sides to the table. What then?

There is no chance that the Unionists and the SDLP will agree to a replacement of the Anglo-Irish agreement because their ideas of what constitutes a satisfactory replacement are in flat contradiction.

On the SDLP side, John Hume speaks, significantly, of "transcending" the agreement rather than "replacing" it. The SDLP will not let go of the agreement — Mr Hume's brainchild — unless it can get something better, from an Irish nationalist point of view. What it has in mind is the Anglo-Irish agreement plus a devolved power-sharing executive.

With devolution, under the Anglo-Irish agreement, the SDLP's minority status in Northern Ireland, and consequently on any Northern Ireland executive, would be offset by the Dublin

government's institutional role in relation to Northern Ireland. That means, for SDLP supporters, a significant degree of recognition of what they have always felt: that they are not a minority by rights, but part of a majority on the whole island. That is why the SDLP will not give up on the Anglo-Irish agreement, though they might agree to add to it.

From the Unionist point of view, all that is anathema. Unionists do not want to build additions to the agreement; they want to get rid of it altogether. Yet Mr Brooke and his colleagues in the Northern Ireland Office seem to have convinced themselves that Unionist objections to the agreement are fading away.

That illusion ought to have been dispelled — but probably has not been — by the result of the Upper Bann by-election last week. The Conservative candidate, Colette Jones — for whom Mr Brooke had campaigned — lost her deposit. The Unionist candidate, David Trimble, who won handsomely, called the result "a resounding rejection of the Anglo-Irish agreement". This would be impossible

to refute, since it was on that rejection that Mr Trimble had based his campaign.

Despite the stinging rebuff he sustained at Upper Bann, Mr Brooke still seems to think he can sell to the Unionists some kind of package containing the essentials of the Anglo-Irish agreement, including an institutionalized role for Dublin in the affairs of Northern Ireland. For Unionists, this would be Sunningdale mark II — from their point of view worse than mark I, under which an executive with a Unionist majority could at least determine the limits of Dublin's role in Northern Ireland. Under mark II, Unionists participating in devolved government would be accepting Dublin's role, as a *fait accompli* agreed with London, without having any capacity to limit it. There will be no takers for that.

Unionists have not forgotten that all their members who accepted Sunningdale mark I lost their seats at the next election. The Upper Bann result suggests the same would happen again.

Mr Brooke's assiduous exertions are getting him nowhere. All

his frantic buzzing about suggests to the IRA that Britain is desperately anxious to find some way of distancing itself from Northern Ireland. With the inevitable failure of each successive effort to find a middle way — between staying and going — Britain is getting nearer to the only real way of attaining what is clearly its objective: actual withdrawal from Northern Ireland, an outcome foreshadowed by Mr Brooke's Cyprus analogy last November. So, the IRA will say, just a few more turns of the screw, lads, and we're there.

Mr Brooke and his colleagues are actually giving aid and comfort to those who fondly believe they are "marginalizing".

More optimistic interpretations were on offer in Dublin at the weekend. One commentator found that the IRA's "decision to launch a major bombing campaign in Britain" is a "measure of its concern at [Mr Brooke's] success to date and an indirect compliment to the Secretary of State's political skills."

Most encouraging, I'm sure you will agree.

Ian McIntyre finds lessons for today in the words of Samuel Johnson, whose London home has just been reopened

Dr Johnson's house in Gough Square was reopened yesterday after a programme of refurbishment, and the capital and the nation are the brighter and richer for it. That may seem an extravagant assertion from a compatriot of Boswell's. Lichfield's greatest son was, after all, more comprehensively rude about Scotland and the Scots even than Sydney Smith, which is saying quite a lot. "Literature in Scotland," he said on one occasion, "was distributed like bread in a besieged town; to every man a mouthful, and to no man a bellyful."

He is, for all that, a hugely important part of our intellectual furniture, on whichever side of Hadrian's Wall we were born. London's most distinguished adoptive son remains in many respects the English man of letters who has most to say to us across two centuries. Academics, archbishops, captains of industry and prime ministers should fight their addition to the *Today* programme and try instead a few pages of *Rasselas* or the *Dictionary* with their toast and marmalade. It would be better both for their blood pressure and for their prose style.

Those presently charged with finding a successor to Dr Runcie should certainly tone themselves up in this way. The question of his acceptability in the sight of God was never long absent from Johnson's mind, and he found it an alarmingly open one. He had no time for starchy, Rousseau-esque notions such as the natural goodness of man. The doctrine of original sin was one that posed no theological difficulties for him, because man's natural unruliness was something with which, from his own wild impulses, he was all too familiar.

When in the Hebrides with Boswell, a lady asked him whether man was not naturally good. "No, Madam," said Johnson, "no more than a wolf." At which, says Boswell, Lady Macleod started, and said in a low voice, "This is worse than Swift."

In his own day, not everyone

admired him as much as Boswell did. Adam Smith thought he was mad. "I have seen him," he wrote, "bolt up in the midst of a mixed company and without any previous notice, fall upon his knees behind a chair, repeat the Lord's Prayer, and then resume his seat at table." Perhaps the tensions he was aware of within himself partly explain the extraordinary extent to which a moral intention is apparent in almost everything he undertook. Even the quotations in his *Dictionary* were not there simply to illuminate. It was his intention, he said, to select such sentences "as might give pleasure or instruction by conveying some elegance of language or some precept of prudence or piety."

Once or twice he carried this a bit far. Poor Dr Samuel Clarke was excluded because Johnson thought him heretical on the doctrine of the Trinity, and Hobbes got very short shrift: "I scorned, Sir, to quote him at all, because I did not like his principles."

Johnson's own principles have not always been well understood. Perhaps the most deeply rooted of them was his idea of literary honesty. "The first step in greatness is to be honest," he said. The American scholar Walter Jackson Bate said the most distinctive quality offered by Johnson's writing was the immense reassurance and trust that it inspired — people reading him had found themselves "cleansed and steadied in the head".

I am never certain how much he would have found to admire in our age. He did not share the modern passion for what is new. Disposable ideas of the colour supplement variety would have appealed to him as little as disposable linen. "Men," he once said, "more often require to be reminded than informed," which remains salutary advice for scribblers even in the age of the screen and the terminal.

Nor can I decide what success he would have if he were setting out to conquer Grub Street today. This is an age which puts a premium on instinct and emotion and mistrusts reason. His cast of



mind was supremely orthodox. He had little time for the peculiar, the singular, the perverse so valued by later generations. He always saw things as they were, and he was always himself, although seeing things as they were extended to a proper estimate of his own abilities and achievements.

When they were discussing the *Dictionary* one day, Boswell was bold enough to say to Johnson, "You did not know what you were undertaking." The reply was perfectly in character: "Yes Sir, I knew very well what I was undertaking — and very well how to do it

— and have done it very well."

It is the sort of knock-out of being able to produce with conviction on the hustings or at the dispatch box. If they are to learn from Johnson, however, they must go behind the superb assurance of manner. The good doctor, so often represented as an authoritarian arbiter, was, in fact, far too civilized a man to wish to force his views on others. It is true that he believed in "talking for victory", but that is a different matter. And there were, of course, certain targets on which he would always

home in relentlessly — folly, vanity, affectation. Above all, on what he called cant. "How is it," he once inquired with trenchant economy, "that we hear the loudest yelps for liberty among the drivers of negroes?"

There were three books of which Johnson never tired — *Robinson Crusoe*, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, and *Don Quixote*. They are all books about wanderers: one a castaway, one a pilgrim, one a man engaged on an impossible quest. It is possible that he saw reflections of all three in his own life, and it is because he looked so honestly into himself that he wrote so penetratingly about human nature. There was very little Johnson did not know about what he called "the treachery of the human heart". Yet he was always a much more severe judge of himself than of others. Mrs Thrale, as so often, put the point very well: "Reasonable with regard to others, he had formed vain hopes of performing impossibilities himself."

It is also from Mrs Thrale that we have one of the most sharply-etched accounts of the generosity with which Johnson presided over his bizarre household. He had, she wrote, more tenderness for poverty than any other man she ever knew. In consequence, "he now has in his house whole nests of people who would if he did not support them be starving. I suppose: a Blind woman and her Maid, a Black-moor and his Wife, a Scotch Wench who has her Case as a Pauper depending in some of the Law Courts; a Woman whose Father once lived at Lichfield and whose Son is a strolling Player — and a superannuated Surgeon to have care of the whole Ship's Company."

Anyone professionally concerned with the language can see to a high degree in the writings of Johnson what he himself admired in Francis Bacon — "the observation of a strong mind operating on life". There are even lessons for broadcasters. He retained to the very end of his life the marvellous precision of his talk. "Everything he says," wrote the artist Ozias Humphrey, "is as correct as a second edition."

Fleet Street is gone, but an important place of pilgrimage just around the corner is open for business once more.

The stage door open to all

The Equity card, that highly-prized passport to stage and screen success, is being devalued in a move that throws into question the union's future. After 60 years its final curtain could come with the confirmation from the Department of Employment last week that its new Employment Bill, abolishing the pre-entry closed shop, will make it illegal for employers to turn down performers solely because they do not have an Equity card. Casting agreements have already been changed to ensure that Equity membership is not a condition of engagement, and some believe this will leave Equity with little or nothing to offer in return for a subscription fee of up to £1,000 a year for the acting elite.

Peter Plouviez, Equity's general secretary, denies that its 45,000 members will tear up their union cards. "We are not a closed shop," he insists. "Our casting arrangements do not exclude outsiders." He admits that some unscrupulous employers will hire stage-struck youngsters and the desperate and pay them below union rates. "But most will continue to employ experienced professionals, and they are in Equity."

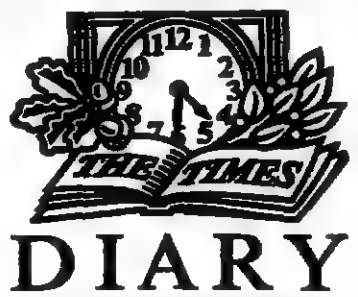
The DoE confirms that the Bill will enable non-union actors to take producers to an industrial tribunal if turned down for a job, and the Society of West End Theatre, which has happily gone along with the closed shop, predicts that the changes will bring chaos. "The Government does not understand the nature of the

profession," says Rupert Rhymer, chief executive. "The existing arrangements have worked satisfactorily for management and unions. It is possible, now, that Equity's role will be diminished." That, many feel, is an understatement.



Also about to fall foul of the new Bill is the House of Lords. The 1975 Employment Act specifically excluded their Lordships from its provisions and, as a result, says a spokesman for the Lords establishment office, "no employment legislation has applied to us since". With the closure of the loophole, peers and their employees will lose their privileged status as the only people in the country entitled to indulge in mass picketing.

Claus's odyssey More than half a century after it was banned by Hitler, a comic opera by the Austrian composer Hans Gál will finally have its world premiere tonight — in York. Rich



Claus Poor Claus, based on a Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale, was about to be staged in Dresden and Hamburg in 1933 when the Nazi authorities objected — both to Gál's Jewishness and to the opera's examination of moral and sexual hypocrisy. Gál fled Germany and was attempting a performance in Vienna in 1938 when the Nazis took over Austria and banned the opera again. He then came to Britain, helped to found the Edinburgh Festival and died in 1987 at the age of 97 with the work still unperformed. Now his daughter, Eva Fox, has raised sponsorship from the Austrian Institute, the Goethe Institute and the Ralph Vaughan Williams Trust to stage the opera at York's Joseph Rowntree Theatre. She herself will play in the orchestra and Gál's grand-daughter, Tanya, will be in the children's chorus. Unless, of course, the fascists march into York before 7.30 this evening.

Murder most foul As the poll tax has headed one of the favourite attractions of the Chelsea Flower Show. For the last seven years, amid the serried ranks of

solemn roses and serious delphiniums, Torbay Borough Council has lightened the tone with Mad Hatters, Pied Pipers and steam trains portrayed in displays of succulents. This year, in its anxiety to keep the poll tax to an acceptable level (at £395 already one of the highest in the South-west), the Conservative council has axed the display. "We had planned to celebrate the centenary of Agatha Christie, who was born in the town," said Bob Sweet, head of Torbay's landscaping department and a Chelsea gold-medal winner for the past seven years. "The display was to be a murder scene, with Inspector Poirot and a corpse in succulents and herbaceous plants. It would have added only 20p to the tax."

Mrs Thatcher started onlookers at Chelsea with her admission that the red rose is one of her favourite flowers. Red, she explained, was the colour of St George, and she always gave out red roses on St George's Day. "I do not intend to have them hijacked by any political party," she added.

Benn lifts the lid

Tony Benn may no longer be a major player in Labour politics, but as his series of diaries takes us closer and closer to the present day, his ability to embarrass the party leadership grows ever stronger. The third volume, to be published ahead of the Labour conference in September, will for the first time detail the rows which rocked the Cabinet during the dying days of the Callaghan government. "This is the only account of that period in the Cabinet. It is covered as

honestly and as fairly as I can," says Benn, in a manner designed to chill the hearts of those who remain politically active.

But he will at least have given Neil Kinnock some comfort when he confessed yesterday that he no longer hankers after high office. Instead he is looking for a buyer for a television programme on his experiences during 40 years as an MP and has just finished work on *Burning Embers*, five late-night discussion programmes on social history to be broadcast on Channel 4 next month. He will discuss, with guests from both right and left, issues such as the poll tax, human rights, the future of socialism and Europe. Runnymede and the Berlin Wall are among the settings, but he fears the media reaction to that chosen for the first — Hackney psychiatric hospital. "Imagine the jokes they will make about the loony left," says Benn.

International ties

There's no end to the oddities of *glasnost*. When Tom King, the Defence Secretary, arrived in Moscow last week, his Special Branch bodyguards were met by their KGB counterparts who, to a man, sported Metropolitan Police ties. All was soon explained: they were a memento from a previous visit to Moscow by Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary. In return, King's Special Branch men asked the Soviet colleagues when they returned to London. Secret police do not usually trade in such ostentation, said the KGB men, but their headquarters is working on a suitable design for exchange on future visits.

Baker silent on Soviet trade treaty

From Martin Fletcher Washington

JAMES Baker, the US Secretary of State, has conspicuously failed to list a trade treaty among his achievements in his first 100 days in office.

US officials have been keen to link the trade treaty with the Soviet Union to the signing of a new arms treaty.

With the Soviet economy in a state of collapse, Mr Baker's silence is a surprise.

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At one point, Mr Baker seemed to have reached an agreement with Mr Gorbachev on a trade treaty.

One official told The New York Times that Mr Gorbachev's silence was a sign of his reluctance to sign the treaty.

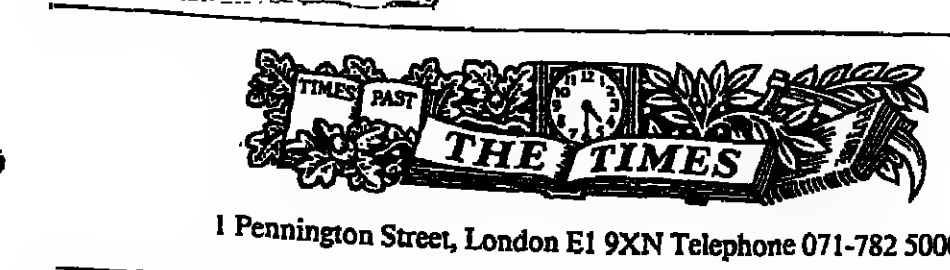
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THE TIMES



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SALVATION POSTPONED

Those Romanians — and there are many — whose integrity emerged intact from the dark age of the Ceausescu will have noticed that the National Salvation Front remained true to form even in the last stages of Sunday's general election.

Both Mr Roy Hattersley and Mrs Edwina Currie played down the scale of ballot-rigging, unlike the French Socialist, Mme Sonia Mink, who robustly declared: "None of the conditions for truly free elections has been met."

Greater caution on the part of the victors would have been wise as well as more seemingly. Gloating, one of the most exquisite rewards of politics, could not be postponed.

In the meantime, Romania must contemplate the prospect of an irregularly elected government, unfettered by any division of powers and composed of individuals with no previous reputation as democrats, drawing up the Constitution under which the same government will exercise its already overweening authority.

Though the new Romanian government is unlikely to adopt the policies of its defeated Liberal and Peasants' Party opponents, even a president with over 80 per cent support should beware if he wishes to remain in office.

ALLY-FRIENDLY DIPLOMACY

A month is clearly a long time in European politics. In April, President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl issued a ringing call for the European Community to "accelerate" towards political union and to "invest this union with the necessary means of action."

How long ago that now seems. At the weekend, EC foreign ministers agreed without apparent difficulty that this was a long way over the top and that federal union was off the agenda.

To that extent, the consensus so easily reached at the weekend represents the final stage of a familiar and reassuring cycle in EC affairs. Visionary ambitions are declared in the first stage. As the day for decision approaches, the outer limits of possibility become clearer.

Until the middle of last year, British policy on the future development of the EC was conducted in one of two modes: silence or unilateral declaration.

The EC is a deal-making machine. Countries wishing to influence a decision need to negotiate. In the politics of the EC today, this is more than just trading votes on farm prices.

PHILANTHROPIC CONNOISSEURSHIP

The National Gallery would have had to milk every man, woman and child in Britain of £1 last week to have been able to afford Van Gogh's "Portrait of Dr Gachet".

So much for the argument that public galleries cannot compete in the market-place for masterpieces. Granted, they cannot afford the prices paid at auctions. Had Mr Ryoel Saito, the buyer of the two Impressionist paintings, asked if he could borrow the Berggruen Collection for five years to stash away in his private house, he would have got a dusty answer.

This loan is the latest in a long tradition of gifts, loans and bequests to public galleries. The National Gallery itself gained exhibition space and many paintings from Lord Duveen in the early part of the century.

Mr Berggruen's choice is also a reflection on the engaging personalities of Mr Neil MacGregor, the museum's director, and Lord Rothschild, chairman of the board of trustees.

Rise in world birth rate

From Sir Charles Morrison, MP for Devon (Conservative)

Sir, I welcome the news coverage given by The Times "Birth rate going up faster than ever before" (May 15) to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) report, "The state of the world's population 1990".

However, one impression gained from the report may be that family planning has been a failure. This is not so. In the last 20 years demand for family planning services in many parts of the world has outstripped supply.

Birth rates have fallen two to seven times faster in developing countries with effective family planning programmes than they did in Europe and America during a similar transition from high to low fertility.

The message that we should be absorbing is that women in the developing world — just like their counterparts in the developed world — want family planning services to plan and space their families.

Yours faithfully, CHARLES MORRISON (Chairman, all-party group on population and development), House of Commons, May 15.

From Mr Eric Jeffs Sir, Your report of the accelerating rate of growth of the global population is well timed against the environmental conference taking place in Norway.

A doubling of the global population in the next century will increase carbon dioxide emissions more than we can cut it back through greater fuel efficiency in the remaining years of this century.

Yours sincerely, ERIC JEFFS (European Editor), Gas Turbine World/Cogeneration, Teal Mead Lane, Prestwood, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, May 15.

Economical reply

From Lord Mollison

Sir, The clear explanation by Sir Patrick Nairne of the civil servants' technique of giving information to the public ("Yes Minister, please tell us more") (May 8) is in line with that of one of his predecessors who was sitting beside his minister in the depths of the country in their car when he realised that they were lost.

The civil servant commented: "That is a model for a parliamentary answer. It is accurate. It is brief. It conveys no information not already available."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, MOLLISON, House of Lords.

'The Three Graces'

From Sir Denis Mahon, FBA

Sir, You report (May 14) that the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art takes the firm view that the Government had created "an unacceptable charter for speculators" by permitting private bids to stop export of the sculpture by Canova to the Getty Museum in California.

Lord Keynes's letter on Dunkirk (May 19) should have begun: "I would like to correct two crucial dates in Brian James's article. 'Operation Dynamo' did not commence on May 27, 1940..."

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Commitment and cost for surgeons

From the President of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland

Sir, The reports by your Social Services Correspondent on May 4 and 5 regarding the new consultant contract, and the enquiry being conducted by the West Midlands Regional Health Authority into alleged abuse of their contract by some consultants, require further comment.

That there are problems is acknowledged, and it is perhaps a pity that these were not previously identified and dealt with within the existing management structure. The Council of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland (ASGBI) feel that a more balanced view should prevail.

In a recent survey by the ASGBI of work carried out in 24 hours by a randomly selected group of surgeons, representing 10 per cent of all the general surgeons in England, it was found that, again excluding on-call duties — but including travel time — an excess of four hours per day over contractual obligations was being worked.

Both surveys imply clearly that the great majority of consultants are fully committed to their health service work; indeed the past success of the health service has been in large part due to this degree of commitment, which consultants and their junior staff have shared with the nurses and others who comprise the surgical and medical teams.

Yours faithfully, MALCOLM H. GOUGH, President, Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland, 35/43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2, May 14.

Blood transfusions

From Dr Ian M. Franklin

Sir, The report (May 11) of possible contamination of two plasma products used for producing blood-clotting factors by Bio Products Laboratory (BPL) is a matter of grave concern. The safety record of material produced by this laboratory has hitherto been excellent and prior to this incident the Factor 8 concentrate has the best safety record of any product in terms of both HIV and hepatitis.

However, it is likely that much of the safety of Factor 8 from BPL reflects the very low incidence of hepatitis and HIV within the volunteer donor community of the UK. The safety of Factor 8 from BPL is based upon testing of donors, heat treatment of plasma products and further testing of the products before release.

Yours faithfully, J. D. STEPHENS, 29 Devonshire Place, W1, May 11.

Church and the law

From the Bishop of Oxford

Sir, The Church Commissioners, in response to my legal action (report, May 10), say that "resort to the law is adversarial and there is no such thing as a friendly court action". Unfortunately, a difference in the interpretation of the law can only be settled by a legal judgement.

Yours faithfully, TRICHARD OXON, Diocesan Church House, North Hinksey, Oxford, May 17.

Language barrier

From Mr Anthony D. Reid

Sir, The Home Office is reported (May 3) to be about to introduce legislation to ban the sale of decoders for Continental satellite TV stations. It appears concerned about copyright "piracy" and the availability of pornographic material. I am concerned, however, about the loss of educational opportunities that could arise.

Yours faithfully, ANTHONY LOVELL, Rose Cottage, Naphill Common, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, May 10.

Five men in a boat

From Vice-Admiral Sir John Lea (ret)

Sir, Mr Pettit (May 17) asks why the odd number of oarsmen in a Montagu whaler. As its name implies the whaler was originally designed for whaling.

Political future of Hungary

From Mr Simon Weil

Sir, I thoroughly agree with the proposition in your leading article (May 11) that the restoration of an hereditary monarchy in Hungary, preferably under Otto von Habsburg, might well provide the right solution in the wake of communist collapse.

I cannot however share the view that Otto's son's involvement in Austrian politics represents a serious drawback; one of the clearest trends to emerge from the upheavals in Central and Eastern Europe is a centripetal urge amongst those nations which once comprised the Austro-Hungarian empire, a tendency which finds its most marked expression in the drawing together of Austria and Hungary themselves.

Yours faithfully, SIMON WEIL, 22 Highbury Place, Islington, N5, May 16.

Enforced idleness

From Major-General S. R. A. Stanford

Sir, I was pleased to learn from the article, "Life after the Cabinet" (May 16), that many distinguished former public servants who left their ministerial and Cabinet positions took up appointments in industry and commerce without delay, as I am sure that they have much to offer.

Yours faithfully, STEPHEN STOFORD, 18 Thornton Avenue, SW2, May 16.

Who's whom?

From Dr B. W. Martin

Sir, In today's GCSE English paper, MEG 1500/2, one instruction to candidates reads, "Think carefully who you are writing for". Should Hemingway, then, have entitled his great novel, *Who the hell is talking for?*

Yours faithfully, BRIAN MARTIN, Head of English, Magdalen College School, Oxford, May 18.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.



Black satin and tulle hat, scattered with gardenias and Mohican ostrich feather plumes, worn by Antoinette Anselme

With a snip and a snap, the look is complete

EVERY designer with a strong signature must occasionally shudder at the way his precious creations are portrayed in magazines; their identity is blurred by being mixed with another designer's clothes, or fitted to some off-beat story-line of fashion editor and photographer.

Those who can afford it invest in glossy magazine pages and brief photographers to put across the image they want to project. Not Karl Lagerfeld.

The German-born couturier they call Kaiser Karl, who talks four languages at the same brisk clip, gives the impression that creating more collections in a season than any other designer is fun. And he believes that the most natural way to work is a relentless round of commuting from his house in Hamburg to the Chanel and Karl Lagerfeld studios in Paris, Fendi in Rome and his German KL fashion house.

Despite all, he has now carved out yet another career. He felt that watching someone else click the shutter on an ensemble that he had created — right down to the last tug at a collar, or the coiff of a short, glossy bob of hair — was crazy. So Mr Lagerfeld, fashion and portrait photographer, was born; for the past three years he has added to his workload the task of doing all the promotional photographs for his collections, and for Parfums Lagerfeld, as well as snapping portraits of friends, colleagues, politicians and models.

An exhibition of his photographic work at Hamilton Gallery in London is to be opened next week by Princess Caroline of Monaco, a friend and regular sitter for his portrait photographs; all proceeds will go to the Peter Le Marchant Trust, a charity which helps the handicapped with holidays and travel. To celebrate the exhibition, he has created for the Chanel shop in Bond Street a collection of hats for The Season, and photographed them exclusively for *The Times*.

"The photography works like a Hollywood production, with a team of 15, and with me in the role of director," he says. Having designed the giant hairboxes piled

Karl Lagerfeld shows how the Ascot hat can be a work of art when photographer and designer are one



Karl Lagerfeld: 'I have a vision'

with tissue paper out of which his models would pop wearing the confections, he worked through the night. "In the Ascot crowd personalities, not clothes, stand out," he says. "The hat is what matters. Just a simple navy or black suit is best."

Dressed invariably in a dark suit, waistcoat, with jewelled pin stuck jauntily in a sober tie and with hair slicked back into a ponytail, Mr Lagerfeld has always bustled about taking Polaroids, snipping cuttings, sketching friends and houses and parties for the visual journals that he keeps. "My optical journal. I always illustrated the books I read as a child," he says. His friend, the eccentrically dressed Italian fashion journalist Anna Piaggi, published his sketches of her made during weekends in his Brittany château and at parties in his

apartments in a Roman palazzo or at the Left Bank *hôtel particulier* where he is based.

Mr Lagerfeld says his interest in photography has affected the way he designs: "I design for a certain look, for a face." The face that inspired the Lagerfeld designs that turned around the fortunes of the house of Chanel in the Eighties, and the model in the first official photographs he took was that of Inès de la Fressange. The aristocratic, dark-haired Mlle de la Fressange became inseparable from the Chanel image until Mr Lagerfeld abruptly ended her contract with the company after a much-publicized row last year. His current favourite model is, in contrast, a bosomy Bardot-like blonde called Claudia Schiffer. The role of muse and friend played during six years by Mlle de la Fressange has been taken on by Princess Diane de Beauvau Craon.

For the photographs in his exhibition he persuaded the five powerful sisters who run Fendi to dress in flowing togas and his assistant, Gilles Dufour, to do himself up with tiny spectacles and floppy tie as Gustav Mahler. Portraits of Princess Caroline with her daughter Charlotte and of Jack Lang, France's Minister of Culture, hang alongside.

Mr Lagerfeld says that Alfred Stieglitz and Edward Steichen, both Germans, have made a greater impression on him than contemporary photographers. His favourite is an old friend, Helmut Newton, whose racy cinematic style is a clear influence in a set of action fashion pictures by Mr Lagerfeld in the next issue of *British Vogue*.

As in everything he touches, from the decoration of his houses (he recently acquired yet another, a manor in Le Mee, about 40 miles from Paris) to his innumerable collections of clothes and accessories, his eye is assured. "I have a vision," he says. "Then I don't change my mind. I do it."

● An exhibition of Karl Lagerfeld's photographs opens at Hamilton Gallery, Carlos Place, W1, on May 30. The new Karl Lagerfeld shop is at 201 Sloane Street, SW1. Chanel is at 26 Old Bond Street, W1; 31 Sloane Street, SW1.

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Left: Horse's head hat of hand-painted beige straw and veil, worn by Victoire de Castellane. Right: Top hat in banded straw worn by Caroline Lebar; satin jockey's cap worn by Amel Sant Mieux. Make-up by Dominique Moncourtois; hair by Gerald Porcher

Liberty belles: to knit at home



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Cannes Film Festival 1990: David Robinson looks at the winners, losers and no-hopers in a year when, at least, there were as many films competing as there were prizes to be won

Having done time on festival juries (including Venice last year and Cannes the year before) I am inclined to envy this year's Cannes jury, headed by Bernardo Bertolucci and with Christopher Hampton as the British representative.

The usual predicament is that there are more prizes than films to earn them. This year there were certainly enough films to go round; and to the last moment it was hard to guess the outcome. Bertrand Tavernier's *Daddy Nostalgia*, which I reviewed last week, remained a front-runner up to the end, with Dirk Bogarde a powerful contender for Best Actor Prize. Clint Eastwood's *White Hunter, Black Heart* clearly merited an award. There was some piquancy in the presence of Anjelica Huston on the jury, since Eastwood himself plays her father John Huston — not entirely flatteringly — in this film about the making of *The African Queen*.

It was a festival of the unexpected. Who, for instance, could have imagined that Rostand's stagey and oft-filmed old warhorse could have made a film with the panache and freshness of Jean-Paul Rappeneau and the writer Jean-Claude Carrière have brushed up the text, while honouring the Alexandrine verse.

Largely filmed in Hungary, with 2,000 extras, innumerable horses (for the *Battle of Arden*) and a great cameraman, Pierre Lhomme, the film is a non-stop visual feast.

Gérard Depardieu's Cyrano is a historic performance. This great, shambling, overweight man with his ordinarily beaten-up face further disgraced by the legendary proboscis, brings extraordinary grace and sensibility to the irascible Gascon, and makes the flowery couplets appear to be his natural vernacular.

Who, again, in the current political climate would have ex-

pected a Russian film-maker to remake a hoary Socialist classic like Gorki's *Mother*? Who, certainly, could have expected that a film of more than three hours long could be as gripping or as contemporary in relevance as this new version by Gleb Panfilov?

The story is about a simple woman who becomes involved, through her son, in the proletarian struggle against tsarist oppression. Panfilov makes the story a generalized metaphor of the abuse of power and the aspirations of the working masses, equally relevant to tsarist history, the later communist experience and the power vacuum in present-day Europe.

The wisdom and relevance of *Mother* is refreshing, after much of the Soviet cinema, which has been just let-off-school look. Another Soviet competition entry, Pavel Lungin's *Taxi Blues*, is an extravagant contemporary fantasy about a taxi driver who turns a welshing customer into his slave. Young Vassili Pichul, who won international fame and fortune with his first film *Little Vera*, has not sustained the promise. His second film, *Oh, How Dark are the Black Sea Nights*, is a confused and unattractive concoction about a woman living off Soviet red tape.

Giuseppe Tornatore's *Everybody's Doing Fine* promises to repeat the pattern of his Oscar-winning *Cinema Paradiso*: dubious critical reaction but runaway commercial success. Tornatore is a true naïf. His films disconcertingly juxtapose moments of wonderful originality with shameless sentimentality and cliché.

Everyone's *Doing Fine* has Marcello Mastroianni, disguised behind pebble glasses, as an old Sicilian civil servant travelling through Italy to visit his five children. At first refusing to recognize that none of them has achieved his high hopes for them, he learns the not-too-profound lesson that it is best for parents to



Powerful contender for the Best Actor award: Dirk Bogarde in Bertrand Tavernier's *Daddy Nostalgia*

love their children for what they are and not what they would wish them to be.

The old master, Federico Fellini wisely showed *The Voice of the Moon* out of competition. The worst of his career, it is a chaotic, misanthropic and incomprehensible fable, with wide whimsical comedian Roberto Benigni as a present-day Pinocchio.

David Lynch's *Wild at Heart* is not the kind of film that wins Grand Prix, but the young American director of *The Elephant Man* and *Blue Velvet* does have an exceptional gift for visualization. His film is a horror-comic of the violence of contemporary America. The lugubrious Nicholas Cage and Laura Dern are on the run through the Southern States, pursued by the girl's lethal mother (Diane Ladd, Dern's real-life mother) and a variety of killers in her hire.

Their thoughts and emotions are shaped by the national folklore, principally Elvis and *The Wizard of Oz*. *Mother* ends up as a sort of 'smoke' like the *Wicked Witch of the North*; and Cage's dramatic expression of love is Elvis's 'Love Me Tender'. Artistically, the film's problem is an uncertain balance between the horror and the comedy. Commercially, the problems are likely to centre on the steamy sex and bawdy talk.

There were clear-cut award-winners from more exotic places. *Time Bandits*, *Passions*, *Quelqu'un s'en va* and *Le Grand Meauland* were the critical and commercial successes of last year's festival. *The Grand Meauland* is a story of adultery and honour in an African village. *Quelqu'un s'en va* is a

film that is as technically polished and as universally accessible as Western films; and certainly successful. However exotic the setting, the characters are familiar, sympathetic and convincing. Especially, *Passions* has an impressive film, which means that it is likely to reach British audiences.

Also clearly destined for the widest international appeal is a mammoth Chinese film, co-produced with Japan, *Yellow Earth*, directed by Zhang Yimou and Yang Fei. It is a melodrama that has the wit of *Batman's* *Yellow Earth* and the wit of *James M. Cain's* *The Postman Always Rings Twice*. The story of an old husband, a young wife and her lover and the child they produce escalates to madness and murder. Apart from being an expertly told and gripping story, the film is as perfect in technique as a film can be, with breathtaking

images: the action is set in an archaic dye-works, where streamers of silk hang from skyscraper scaffolding. Finally, *Passions* not only produced the most controversial film in competition, Ken Loach's *Hidden Agenda* (though the controversy was largely a fabrication of the English popular media), but also an unforeseen star in the shape of the veteran writer-director Sidney Gilliat.

Gilliat's collaborator, Frank Launder — they wrote such films as *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Lady Vanishes* — and directed, *inner ally*, *Millions Like Us*, *The Rake's Progress* and *Green for Danger* — was not well enough to be in Cannes. Gilliat was much in evidence, however, witty and inexhaustible; and a small retrospective of their films eloquently presented by the British Council, was a revelation to foreign states.

TELEVISION

IF SOMEONE told you there were a high-security prison for women purpose-built, underground, painted entirely in white to cause sensory deprivation and specifically used for convicts who had only ever committed non-violent political crimes, you could be forgiven for assuming it was somewhere in South Africa or maybe the pre-planned Eastern Bloc. It is therefore more than a little scary to find that for two years the prison existed in Lexington, Kentucky, and was only closed down a few months ago as a result of local and family pressure.

Nina Rosenblum's chilling documentary, *Through the Wire*, opened a new Channel 4 series of *Made in the USA* last night and told the case histories of three women who for 20 months were kept in isolation, regularly strip-searched, and never allowed to escape the eye of a video camera. The Kentucky prison was finally ruled illegal, but only after Amnesty and the UN had declared that it failed to meet 'elemental [sic] standards of decency'.

Even at the height of the McCarthy panic of the early 1950s it is unlikely that American political prisoners were treated with such psychological torment as was imposed on the women arrested in Kentucky. The question unanswered by the documentary is how many of the 16 similar prisons under construction will be allowed to open by a nation still ready to protest at the torture of political prisoners elsewhere.

How very different, we may hope, from home life in our own penal institutions: an unusually acute observer at Channel 4 used the hour before *Through the Wire* to screen *She's Done Her Bird*, which also told the story of three female prisoners and was moved back from early April for legal reasons. The trio here was Sue, in for violence under the influence of drink, Jo, in for fraud, and Michelle, in for arson, though described as well-meaning (except, presumably, when armed with a lighter).

All three were observed by Anne Parasio's cameras on their way out of prison where nothing as horrible had happened to them as to their less violent sisters in Kentucky. Indeed, prison had provided them with a kind of club unknown elsewhere, which is presumably why they were almost eager to get back inside.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

Tales of the river bank

Classical Music:
Paul Griffiths on a Sunday of music and dance by the Thames

This was a whole musical festival in a day: a day of music and song presented by Crusaid and the South Bank to raise money for Aids relief. It ended rousing with a massive gesture of hope, in a hasty performance of the finale from *Fidelio*, with John Mauceri conducting assembled soloists, choirs and the Philharmonia Orchestra.

Beethoven's opera also provided the opening music for the evening gala concert, when Simon Rattle conducted a vivid account of the third *Leonore* overture. Here, it was clear the occasion was being treated not as a glamorous night out with the stars but as a real artistic event. Rattle and the Philharmonia strings achieved an extraordinary pliancy in the introduction, and an extraordinarily dangerous final march.

The hope conveyed by *Fidelio* was, of course, entirely appropriate to the circumstances of the day, which — Graham Vick and John Mauceri's *Leonore* — was a celebration, not a requiem. The choice of other items was necessarily conditioned by the singers available. Two excerpts from *Don Giovanni*, with Sherrill Milnes still looking and sounding a singular threat, were particularly curious in the context of so much generosity. It was also a little odd to hear Felicity Lott, however beguilingly, contemplating fading beauty in the Marchallin's monologue from *Der Rosenkavalier*.

But a sequence of extracts from *Porgy and Bess* hit every possible nail on the head. Any evening planning a charity concert should take note that one only needs to wheel in Rattle and his Glyndebourne team to guarantee the simultaneous excellence and enjoyment these events depend on. Willard White and Cynthia Haymon simply were *Porgy* and *Bess*, touching and tender, while Damon Evans as Sportin' Life seems to get ever more cajoling and risky every time he tells us it ain't necessarily so. The chorus played along with him wonderfully, even pulling off one of his squalid slides.

Also much in the encouragingly, combatively hedonistic spirit of the day was the afternoon Thames river cruise taking in diverse musical entertainments. The first stop was Deppford, for a performance of Monteverdi's *Il combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda* in a warehouse: a venue with all the charm and acoustic suitability of a multi-storey car park.

It was a great pity that so much was lost, since Richard Jones had devised a simple, effective staging which slowly unrolled like a carpet between two parallel lines of standing onlookers. Omar Ebrahim was particularly good as the narrator, using the informal setting to establish an immediate rapport with his audience.

Paul Harry's Tancredi and Teresa Shaw's Clorinda, wearing



Dancers: Adventures in Motion Pictures in action for *Music for Life*

modern clothes but with the vision, helmet and swordsmanship of the story, well merited the keen focus, and I hope this Musical nel Chostro (some clonist) production will have a life elsewhere. It does, maybe Jones will reconsider his curious — and in the context of this day, itself sentimental — final gesture, in which the dying Clorinda is slowly approached by four creatures with blood wings, miniature angels, wings and the white coats of hospital orderlies. Ivor Bolton directed the small accompanying instrumental ensemble from the harpsichord, and again much was inevitably lost.

The next stop was architecturally more rewarding, but musically less so, though at least an undisputed performance of Handel's *Dixit Dominus* had the advantage of letting one admire the emphatic beige and blue baroque splendour of the Royal Naval College Chapel. Then it was back to the boat for Brahms's *Liederkreis Walzer* to offer a seductive alternative to the views of docks and dereliction, and so to the city for dance-performances by *Adventures in Motion Pictures*.

A classical music column will appear every Friday and Tuesday

John Perival on two contrasting exercises in the reconstruction of historic ballets

Dusting the classics

RECONSTRUCTIONS in Paris and Amsterdam of two long-lost ballets achieve surprisingly different results. One was *La Fille mal gardée* (1789), sometimes described as the first modern ballet because its choreographer, Jean Deubert, was a pioneer in taking ordinary people as his subject.

He was too successful for his own good. His *Fille* made such an impression that one choreographer after another borrowed his plot. As author, he might be proud that his ballet has never vanished from the repertoire in 200 years, but as choreographer he would envy successors who took his place.

Now Jean-Paul Goussier, ballet director in Nantes, has traced in a Stockholm library the pot-pourri score of *Fille*, and has used it, with his own detailed notes for the music. With these clues, two dancers, a specialist in historical choreography, has staged the work in the spirit, if not exactly the letter, of the original.

The story is told with lively humour, clearly, directly and economically. Even with the little set of dancers at the end to celebrate *Fille's* betrothal, it is shorter than almost all recent versions. All the dancing is done in heeled shoes, most of it based on country dances. If Goussier has got it right (and the result looks convincing), Deubert's *Fille* has no less charm than Ashton's inspired treatment, the best of modern versions.

Bourmouille's *The Lay of Thyrn*, although created much later than *Fille*, feels far more old-fashioned. It looks back to the earlier tradition of ballets about gods; in this instance the gods come from Nordic myth. The Danish choreographer had long been interested in them, but made this work in 1868 for practical reasons — its popularity averred, threatened cut in subsidy.

The story is monstrously incomprehensible in detail and always was. The main plot concerns the attempts of Thor, god of thunder, to win back his secret weapon, a magic hammer, and the trick played by Loki in both helping and impeding him. Thyrn, a giant, is a comparatively minor character, the morally ambiguous Loki, an attractive and-hero, there are declarations of love, comic disguises, drunkenness, battles, Valkyries. The action ends with the Twilight of the Gods and a mystical rebirth.

The original ballet survived for some years but was dropped in 1905, so no living continuity remains. But Danish theatre historians believed that debased public taste had been wrong in preferring their greatest choreographer's lightest works to his serious ones. The other reason for revival was a conviction that J.P.E. Hartmann's score deserved another hearing.

Unfortunately, a famous quip that the music of *The Lay of Thyrn* is 'the best Danish opera — although without words', proves only too true. It is long-winded, diffuse and sentimental. Moreover, Bourmouille's structure, a series of tableaux without much narrative continuity, lacks dramatic bite. Too much is decorative, rather than expressive.

The revival is enjoyable for some performers, most notably for the brilliantly gifted young Nikolaj Hjalmarsson, and for Peter Benoit, an interesting cast. The reconstruction was undertaken from Bourmouille's notes, other contemporary evidence, and a knowledge of his style, by Elsa Marianne von Rosen and Allan Eriksen, who is a choreographer and producer, a historian and designer. It is not think it could have been done better. Whether it was worth doing, other than as an act of piety, is debatable.

CRITIC'S CHOICE CLASSICAL MUSIC

- CONCERTS**
- SCHOENBERG PLUS:** David Atherton conducts last two stimulating London Sinfonietta programmes planned by the late Michael Vyrer. Tonight Schoenberg's *Verklärte Nacht* and Sennedee (soloist, David Wilson-Johnson) encores Hans Abrahamsen's 'recomposition' of Carl Nielsen, and his own *Mikrotonischer*. On Saturday Schoenberg's Three Chamber pieces and Chamber Symphony No 1, plus his arrangement of Mahler's *Mayanar Songs* (Alfred Hodgson) and the premiere of Bart Sorenson's *Symphony*. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-828 8800), 7.45pm, £2.50-£12.50.
- NORRINGTON/BEETHOVEN:** Roger Norrington's sometimes unexpected views on Beethoven in two Philharmonia programmes. Tomorrow the *Egmont* Overture and *Eroica* Symphony plus Christian Zacharias in Piano Concerto No 1; on Sunday the ever-challenging *Adagio Sostenuto* with Alison Hargrett, Claire Powell, Philip Langridge, Gwynne Howell. Philharmonia Chorus (no interval). Royal Festival Hall (see above), 7.30pm, £5-£18.
- ODE AND NEW:** Last programme of London Mozart Players season features Ode by Robin Holloway (his *Classics* just premiered by ENO) between Haydn's *Sinfonia concertante* and Mozart's *Symphony 34*, with Britain's Frank Bridge *Violentaria* to start. Jane Glover conducts. Queen Elizabeth Hall (see above), tomorrow, 7.45pm, £4.50-£14.
- ENGLAND IN MUSIC:** Views from abroad in Rob Roy (Barry), *Scottish Fantasia* (Bruch) with violin soloist Lydia Morckovitch, *Marche écossaise* (Debussy), 'Scottish' Symphony (Mendelssohn) in Glasgow. Monday, 7.30pm, £10-£12.50. City Hall, Candelrigg, Glasgow (041-227 5511), tomorrow, 7.30pm, £3-£9.
- POLISH ELGAR:** Polish Chamber Orchestra on UK tour reaches Glasgow. Mayfest, directed by violinist Jan Stanienda in Elgar's Introduction and Allegro, Mozart and Beethoven. Divergence: Violin Concertos by Bach (A minor) and Vivaldi (4 violins). City Hall (see above), Thurs, 7.30pm, £3-£7.
- BATH FESTIVAL:** Opening concert by City of London Sinfonia with Westminster Singers in Faure's *Requiem*, Jill Gomez singing *Les Nuits d'été* (Berlioz), Richard Hickox conducting these and a *Camelot* suite to begin. Bath Abbey (0225 463362/468411), Fri, 7.30pm, £3-£12.
- FRENCH ULSTER:** Ulster Orchestra specially increased to 81 players for *Daphne et Chloé* (Ravel) in last of season's concerts. All-French programme conducted by Yan Pascal Tortelier includes Jaur (Debussy) and US pianist Jeffrey Biegel in Saint-Saëns's Concerto No 2. Ulster Hall, Belfast (0222 233240), Fri, 7.45pm, £3.30-£11.
- SHELDONIAN BAROQUE:** Baroque instrumental styles The English Concert directed by Trevor Pinnock in first of three 'Music at Oxford' programmes. Mark Bennett (trumpet) and Paul Goodwin (oboe) are Haydn concerto soloists, framed by Mozart Symphonies 29 and 26.
- SPAIN IN BATH:** The Bath Festival's Spanish theme directs baritone Thomas Allen inevitably, but doubtless rewarding, to Wolf's *Spanish Liederbuch*, and to Ravel's poignant cycle of Cervantes-inspired vignettes, *Don Quixotte à Dulcinée*. Roger Vignoles' accompanying is sure to be the highlight. Theatre Royal, Bath (0225 463362), Mon, 7.30pm, £3-£12.
- HILARY PITCH**

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REVIEWS

Moral fable with a big tune

OPERA

Tornrak
New, Cardiff

WELSH National Opera's first commissioned work for nearly a decade turns out to be a pleasant, straightforward fable of the evils of civilization, set in the middle of the 19th century and opposing arctic Canada in the first act against Britain in the second.

Our sympathies are, of course, firmly clamped to the denizens of the former, who quaintly refer to themselves as "this one", show a real understanding of the natural world, take care of strangers, and are in tune with their spiritual natures. You can tell that because each of them has a "tornrak", or spirit guardian in the form of an animal, whereas the wretched British just have a performing bear and sheep which are treated as property. Terrible, really.

Michael Wilcox's libretto concerns a sailor, Arthur, who is shipwrecked, and saved by an Inuit woman, Milak. He is later picked up by another vessel, and Milak goes with him back to this country, where she is successively a lecturer's exhibit, a circus freak and a runaway, hunting sheep to feed the starving, tornrak-less people she finds on the streets. She is duly hanged. Arthur returns to the Arctic on another expedition and is happily reunited with her when her tornrak comes along to freeze him to death.

John McElduff's vocal lines are cast in antinomous modern-opera arias, except for some dis-



Fresh lyric tenor: David Owen as Arthur and Ian Comboy as the Captain in *Tornrak*

right arctic noises with violin harmonics and tuned percussion in the first act, besides offering syncopated basses and repetitive figures in the second, to leave no doubt that this is now the barbarism of Europe. In this act, there is also a big tune, finally revealed as the Big Tune of the Arthur-Milak glacial consummation.

Arthur is enthusiastically and beautifully sung in a fresh lyric tenor by David Owen; Penelope Walker appropriately projects a darker, warmer, more enigmatic musical personality as Milak. Among smaller roles, the Polar Bear is amiably acted by Richard E. Armstrong (John Pennoyer's modernist-totemic costume is

good). Louise Kennedy is all disdain and volubility as Lady Delisle, and John Harris is a charming Molecatcher. The production, by Mike Ashman, slips unsteadily between formality and naturalism. Richard Armstrong conducts a colourful orchestral performance.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

DANCE

Pat Graney
The Place

FIVE sporty young women from Seattle, Pat Graney and Dancers, are making their first appearance outside the United States, brought to London as part of the "The Place's" "Turning World" season. They introduced themselves with *Colleen Ann*, which sets bright, jaunty Irish step-dancing to music by The Chieftains and Steeleye Span, done with such exuberant vigour that I began to wonder how they could keep going for the rest of the evening.

Countering this energy was the story of the arrival of Graney's Irish grandparents in America, spoken by one of the dancers (how did she get enough breath?) and enacted simultaneously in sign language.

There was more sign language at the end of the show, but used to comic effect with the song by Patsy Cline which opened the country and western accompani-

ment of *Jesus Loves the Little Cowgirls*. In this, the dancers exchanged their black Irish kilts for red-and-white Texan uniforms, but kept their white sneakers and their aerobic energy level.

Pretended gunfights, lasso-waving, jumping, falling, grappling and rolling made up the high-speed action; yet its good humour proved only mildly amusing on Saturday night. I imagine this was because a rather solemn "work in progress" in the middle of the programme had let down the audience's spirits.

That particular piece, *Faith*, was full of images of death and burial, but it looked in need of more organization and tightening. It probably had quite the opposite effect to the work originally announced, which promised exciting physical prowess on uneven parallel bars. Problems of transporting the apparatus caused that to be abandoned, and with this omission the programme seemed somewhat deflated. Pat Graney can be seen tonight at the Mitchell Theatre in Glasgow.

JOHN PERCIVAL

CONCERT

LSO/Tilson Thomas
Barbican

LEONARD BERNSTEIN is not given to understating his emotions. When he conducts, that often means stretching music to its limits, risking a slower pace and more exaggerated inflections than anyone else. Such overkill can also occur in his compositions. That was evident in his song cycle for soprano and baritone, *Arias and Barcarolles*, first heard with piano-duo accompaniment in Israel last year, and given its British premiere - clothed in the new colours of percussion and strings - on Sunday.

In places, admittedly, the piece shows that Bernstein (who, with his late mother, wrote all but one of the texts), is willing to poke fun at his own emotions. The second song, for instance, about Little Smiley who loses her "little wuddie", works up to a Mahlerian climax: obviously Bernstein's tongue indulging in enthusiastic

sideways exploration. However, the Straussian overtones of "Greening", concerned with the miracle of birth, are seriously meant, and give the movement an air of sticky sentimentality.

There are other obvious influences too. Late Shostakovich shades the textures of the Hebrew song "At My Wedding", and there is a curious mixture of Sondheim and Berio's *Sinfonia*, perhaps, in the ever-twirling "Love duet" ("Funny/The way it goes and flows, this melody...").

Judy Kaye and Benjamin Luxon sang beautifully, and the strings and two percussionists of the London Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas, enveloped this Mr and Mrs Average in an appropriately warm, domestic glow.

Stravinsky filled the rest of the evening: a lucid, cool performance of *Symphonies of Wind Instruments*, an exotic *Le roi des foies* (with the men of the Tallis Chamber Choir), and a wonderfully inspired *Rite of Spring*, which had one gripping one's seat.

STEPHEN PETTIT

Few good jokes in world history

RADIO

THE famous dead are always with us, if not in precisely the image their agents would have recommended. Their warts swell in proportion to their artistic reputations. *Memoirs of an Amnesiac Remembered* (Radio 3, Sunday) gave us Erik Satie as a prickly wit, part-time surrealist and enquirer of others' success. The composer of shimmering, crystalline melancholy had an acute sense of his emotional vulnerability, and tended to send himself up to save his critics the trouble. "Before I compose a piece I walk around it several times, accompanied by myself." A dog barked.

Joanna MacGregor's fantasy took the eccentric line of casting

Jim Broadbent as the composer discussing his own character and methods, while she, Joanna, played the piano. Satie's vivid, sardonic and frequently bloody-minded correspondence supplied the verbal material, and an actor impersonating the likes of David Bellamy and Billy Connolly attempted to provide a modern resonance. The composer of *Gymnopédies* claimed his sense of humour recalled that of Cromwell. He abhorred jokes. "What is a joke supposed to prove? The history of the world tells very few good ones."

He should have spoken from the grave to Mr Broadbent, who on Sundays and Thursdays can be heard in *All the World's a Globe* (Radio 3), being a history of the world "from amoeba to

cosmonaut". The National Theatre of Brent is a one-joke outfit, and the joke lies in its name. The entire cast, of Broadbent and Patrick Barlow, have co-opted the announcer Peter Barker and the actress Juliet Stevenson, and have plundered the archives for any amount of brass-and-percussion left over from Hollywood historical soundtracks.

The NTB ignore historical characters as such: their view of the world has no time for the cult of the personality which is "serious" radio's standard way of dealing with great names. Recent Mondays showed the latter approach in Jo Anderson's *Solstice* (Radio 4), a dramatic account of the young Vincent Van Gogh's sojourn in London: Vincent at the musical hall, Vincent falling for

fallen women and weeping over *Great Expectations* - Vincent, above all, driven by demons. He was not an ideal flogger.

Julian Firth managed to make something of the role more than an impassioned Dutch trippy, and was well served by Dexter Fletcher as Harry Gladwell, Vincent's fellow toiler in the Covent Garden art warehouse. "Juno anyfin' abahin' packin' paintin's prop'ly?" Though characterized by Gladwell as a "cliff-ears", Vincent had the savvy to point out that this was a prime example of alliteration. His mother, recalled in echoic flashback, went one better in the musical dialogue stakes: "Vincent, Vincent, come here this instant!" His inner ear, at least, seemed to be functioning perfectly.

MARTIN CROPPER

NEW RELEASES

THE GODS MUST BE CRAZY II (PG): Comic oddness in the Keanu Reeves comedy as a bunch of outcasts, led by a mad scientist, battle the forces of evil. (Columbia TriStar) (PG)

MAX, MOM AMOUR (R): Maxine Peacock's tale of a bored bourgeois wife (Charlotte Rampling) in love with a chimpanzee, elegant, but annoyingly muted. (MCA Home Video) (R)

TORRENTS OF SPRING (PG): Jerry Shand's plucky, bewitching adaptation of Turgenev's short novel about a young Russian aristocrat (Timothy Hutton) wooing between two women (Francesca Annis, Valeria Golino). (Cannon Video) (PG)

CURRENT

ALL DOGS GO TO HEAVEN (U): Disappointing cartoon strategy about a low-life dog returning from the dead. (Walt Disney) (U)

ALWAYS (PG): Spielberg's plush but pointless remake of A Guy Named Joe with Richard Dreyfuss as a dead pilot returning to earth. (Paramount) (PG)

BLACK RAIN (R): Crime story directed by Ridley Scott about a hard-boiled New York cop (Michael Douglas) pursued by a sadistic killer (Danny Glover). (MCA Home Video) (R)

BOON ON THE FOURTH OF JULY (R): Dynamic war-drama epic from Oliver Stone, with Tom Cruise as a young soldier. (Paramount) (R)

CHICKEN PARADE (PG): Giuseppe Tornatore's nostalgic tale of a small Sicilian cinema, a largely appealing relic to the movies. (Cannon Video) (PG)

DRIVING MISS DAI (U): Sweet, endearing film of Alfred Hitchcock's play about a blind Southern lady (Jessica Tandy) and her black chauffeur (Morgan Freeman). (Cannon Video) (U)

THE FABULOUS BAKER BOYS (U): Highly diverting bromance between a blonde super (Michelle Pfeiffer) and two oddball partners (Jeff and Beau Bridges). (Cannon Video) (U)

HENRY V (PG): Visually stunning version of Shakespeare's play from war-torn Kenneth Branagh, who directs and stars. With Paul Scofield, Emma Thompson and Dench. (Cannon Video) (PG)

THE HUNT FOR RED OCTOBER (PG): Sean Connery as a Soviet submarine commander living to defect. (Paramount) (PG)

A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET II: THE DREAM CHILD (R): Robert Englund's sequel movie, intensely scary on yet more children. (Cannon Video) (R)

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's selection of films in London and (where indicated) on release across the country.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS (R): Richard Gere and Andy Garcia as Los Angeles cops sucked into a vortex of insecurity and corruption. Tired thriller, given some kick by Brian Director Mike Figgis. (Cannon Video) (R)

THE KRYSTAL (R): Brooding, bloody drama about the rise and fall of the East End gangster, from war-time childhood to incarceration in separate prisons. Peter Mackenzie directs an imaginatively chosen cast. (Cannon Video) (R)

JOHNNY HANDSOME (U): Gritty, unsympathetic action tiddler from director Walter Hill, with Mickey Rourke as a disgraced cowboy who plays a double-cross following plastic surgery. (Cannon Video) (U)

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Sumner's comical school. Fast and furious drug comedy, aimed at fans of the stridently zany, from writer-director Jonathan Lynn. (Odyssey) (R)

POWDER HIGHWAY (U): Hugely diverting and sympathetic US independent film about two American Indians on a cross-country journey. A sprightly first feature for director Jonathan Wachs, with a Marlene, Gary Farmer. (Cannon Video) (U)

PRETTY WOMAN (U): Shamelessly old-fashioned romantic comedy, given some modest charm and sparkle by Julia Roberts as a gleefully prostitute who softens the crust of ruthless businessman (Richard Gere). (Cannon Video) (U)

SEE YOU IN THE MORNING (U): Disappointingly heavy-handed romantic comedy from writer-director Alan J. Pakula, with Jeff Bridges as a psychiatrist torn between two marriages. (Cannon Video) (U)

SH-DEVI (U): Roushaneen Bar as the aliened bump who takes revenge when her husband takes up with Marlene Streep. Overly stilted adaptation of Fay Weldon's *Life and Loves of a She-Devil* from director Susan Seidelman. (Cannon Video) (U)

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TELEVISION & RADIO

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY
TELEVISION CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALLE

BBC 1

- 6.00 *Cartoon*
6.30 *BBC Breakfast News* with Jill Dando and Nicholas Witchell 8.55
Regional news and weather
9.00 News and weather followed by *Petals of a Sporting Life*. Series offering solutions to sporting injuries
9.20 *Glenda Live*. Topical discussion with Glenda Hurnford and her guests
10.00 News and weather followed by *Matchpoint* (r)
10.25 *Children's BBC*, introduced by Simon Parker, begins with *Playdays* (r)
10.50 *Barney* (r)
10.55 *Five to Eleven*. Miranda Foster recites some children's poems written especially for *One World Week*
11.00 News and weather followed by *The Bergen Debates: When the Party is Over*. Who is going to play for clearing up the polluted planet?
11.50 *Northern Lights*. A photograph of Jack Hulme has recorded 60 years in the life of a Yorkshire mining village (r)
12.00 News and weather followed by *Daytime Live* from the Chelsea Flower Show 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk. Weather
1.30 *Neighbours*. (Ceefax) 1.50
2.15 *Film: Tiger in the Smokey* (1955, b/w). Donald Sinden and Tinsel Paviour star in a strange melodrama with a

convoluted plot. A sergeant, who knows the whereabouts of a prisoner held from a commando raid, is hunted down by his former soldiers. Directed by Roy Baker. Northern Ireland. Open House 3.00 *The Rockford Files*
3.50 *ChuckleVision* (r) 4.05 *Laurel and Hardy* 4.10 *Happily Ever After*. Mrs Wobble the waitress - Part One. New children's drama series based on Allan Ahlberg's children's books, which were inspired by the popular card game 4.25 *Divide*. Cartoon about a duck-billed platypus (r) 4.40 *Tenager Mutant Hero Turtles*. Cult cartoon series
5.00 *Newsround* 5.10 *Open House* visits the National Horse-Racing Museum in Newmarket, Suffolk. (Ceefax)
5.35 *Neighbours* (r). (Ceefax). Northern Ireland. Sportsweek 5.40 *Inside Ulster*
6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Anna Ford and Peter Sissons. Weather
6.30 *Regional news*. (Ceefax)
7.00 *Style Trial*. Another bitchy panel, including nightclub owner Peter Stringfellow and boxing champion Barry Stretch, attempt to guess the lifestyles of the two guests who invite criticism. (Ceefax)
7.30 *EastEnders*. (Ceefax). Penelope Keith stars as snobby Audrey Forbes-Hamilton in the hit comedy series. Tonight, she discovers she is no longer able to employ Arthur when he asks for a job lay-making. With Peter Bowles (r). (Ceefax)

8.30 *Black in Blue: Trial and Error*. Desmond Wilson joins seven recruits at Hendon Police Training College and discovers how (un)well the police can be. The recruits, all from ethnic backgrounds, soon experience the pressures of the police force, where discipline is harsh and failure is commonplace. (Ceefax)
9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk. Regional news and weather
9.30 *Sportsnight*. Highlights of tonight's football match between England and Uruguay at Wembley
10.30 *World Leaders Debate*. As part of *One World Week*, Jonathan Dimbleby chairs a satellite-linked discussion on whether a common future for the world is a naive dream or a definite possibility. UN Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar joins Presidents Václav Havel of Czechoslovakia, Richard Weisacker of West Germany and Benazir Bhutto, Pakistan's Prime Minister. (Ceefax). Northern Ireland: A Room With a View 10.55 *Open House* visits the Pursuit of D. Cooper (1981) starring Robert Duval and Treat Williams. Cooper, a fearless crook, pulled off a real-life escape by parachuting from a Boeing 727 with \$200,000. The film suggests a solution to the inescapable fact, with Duval playing an insurance agent who believes he knows Cooper's true identity. Directed by Roger Spottiswoode. (Ceefax). Northern Ireland: 11.40 *World Leaders Debate*
12.55am *Weather*

BBC 2

- 7.10 *Open University: The Oil Game*. Ends at 7.35
8.00 *News* 8.15 *Westminster*
9.00 *Daytime on Two*. Learning to spell 10.00 *Television Images* 9.40 *Lincoln Cathedral* 10.00 *Open House* visits seven-year-olds 10.15 *Different religious beliefs* 10.40 *A portrait of the Wyoming town of Evanston* 11.00 *Cate* 11.15 *A boy's feelings* when his mother and father separate 11.35 *Fighting racism* 11.55 *Migrant workers* 12.15 *Graphic design* 12.35 *Technology in everyday lives* 12.55 *Recovering from the failure of a small business* 1.20 *The Adventures of Spot* 1.25 *What's Inside* 1.40 *A-level statistics*
2.00 *News* and weather followed by *You and Me* (r) 2.15 *Extra* 2.25 *Extra: The House that Bob Built* 2.40 *Mad as Man*. Restoring an old jukebox 2.55 *Travel Show*. Traveler John Thirwell visits Guernsey (r)
3.00 *News* and weather followed by *Westminster Live* 3.50 *News*, regional news and weather
4.00 *Starkey and Hutch*. The cop duo who agonize over shooting people before actually doing it anyway infiltrate a liquor operation. Starring Paul Michael Glaser and David Soul (r)
4.50 *News* in the Margin. Author Stephen Heath looks back on the 1960s 5.00 *Open House* visits the 1960s 5.15 *Open House* visits the 1960s 5.30 *Open House* visits the 1960s 5.45 *Open House* visits the 1960s 5.55 *Open House* visits the 1960s 6.00 *Open House* visits the 1960s 6.15 *Open House* visits the 1960s 6.30 *Open House* visits the 1960s 6.45 *Open House* visits the 1960s 6.55 *Open House* visits the 1960s 7.00 *Open House* visits the 1960s 7.15 *Open House* visits the 1960s 7.30 *Open House* visits the 1960s 7.45 *Open House* visits the 1960s 7.55 *Open House* visits the 1960s 8.00 *Open House* visits the 1960s 8.15 *Open House* visits the 1960s 8.30 *Open House* visits the 1960s 8.45 *Open House* visits the 1960s 8.55 *Open House* visits the 1960s 9.00 *Open House* visits the 1960s 9.15 *Open House* visits the 1960s 9.30 *Open House* visits the 1960s 9.45 *Open House* visits the 1960s 9.55 *Open House* visits the 1960s 10.00 *Open House* visits the 1960s 10.15 *Open House* visits the 1960s 10.30 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BUSINESS

صوتنا من الداخل

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

TUESDAY MAY 22 1990

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-31
● LAW 32-33
● SPORT 40-44Green plays
down talk
of BSB buy

MR MICHAEL Green has played down suggestions that his Carlton Communications may be interested in buying a stake in BSB, the satellite television group, but the City still regards a swoop on Thames Television as a possibility.

Carlton was reporting pre-tax profits up from £42.1 million to £64.9 million in the half-year to end-March, boosted by UEL bought last summer for £490 million.

The interim dividend rises from 3.06p to 3.508p, and Carlton says it will pay a total of 14.039p in the current year, a 50 per cent increase.

These dividend gains will also improve the balance between the interim and final payments. The shares, hit badly in recent months, lost another 30p to 510p after the figures.

The group has net cash, or its equivalent, of more than £60 million, and is looking at further acquisitions in the television and media fields, particularly in Britain.

It bid for Thames in 1985, but was blocked by the Independent Broadcasting Authority, which is now thought to be taking a more open-handed view to bids in the sector.

However, Mr Green said any purchase of a stake in BSB would be "uncharacteristic."

Temps, page 27

ABF advances

Associated British Foods, with cash and investment balances of £1.2 billion, made pre-tax profits of £283.8 million (£237.1 million) in the year to end-March. Turnover rose to £2.77 billion (£2.49 billion). A final dividend of 7.7p (6.5p) makes 11p (9.3p) for the year.

Temps, page 27

Amber buy

Amber Day Holdings is to pay £46.7 million for the What Everyone Wants Group, a Scottish discount department store chain. WEW is more than twice Amber Day's size and there is to be a heavy five-for-eight rights issue at 45p to raise £13.2 million to help pay for the purchase.

Temps, page 27

Philips sued
by investors
in America

By Our European Business Correspondent

UNITED States investors have filed a lawsuit against Philips, the troubled Dutch electronics firm, over alleged misrepresentation of trading and earnings prospects.

A statement by Philips said: "Shareholders in the United States have filed a lawsuit against Philips alleging that, in the period between January 8 and May 3, 1990, Philips gave incorrect information about the course of the business."

Although such cases are common in the US, it is rare for US shareholders to sue a European company with a US listing. In Europe itself, legal action on such grounds is virtually unheard of.

If the lawsuit is successful, it may force European companies to consider revealing more information to investors, or alternatively, to withdraw their United States listings.

Shareholders in Philips have been angered at the company's recent announcement of a fall in first quarter profits from £1.223 billion to £1.16 billion (£6 million).

Investors and analysts have been infuriated not so much by the bad results themselves, but by the fact that Philips gave no prior indication of its problems.

Mr Wisse Dekker, the chairman of Philips' supervisory board, admitted that the dis-

trous first-quarter result came as a surprise even to the board.

After the events, Mr Cor van der Klugt, the president of Philips, and Mr Gert Lorenz, head of the computer division, were forced to resign. Mr Jan Timmer, head of the consumer electronics division at Philips, has been appointed to succeed Mr van der Klugt.

The fall in profits led to an outcry by investors who feel misled after Philips said in March that annual income would exceed the £1.72 billion achieved in 1989. On the announcement of its first-quarter profits, the company retracted that statement.

A US securities lawyer said that class actions against companies who violate disclosure rules "are far from uncommon

and in many cases successful." Actions of such a nature are based on the Securities Exchange Act 1934. The information, by which investors have been allegedly misled, relates to documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the US securities watchdog.

Philips, which is registered in the US with SEC, recently filed three reports, two so-called Form 6-K interim reports in March and one main end-of-year 20F report in April. The investors' complaint probably relates to the reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission in March or April.

The legal action against Philips further increases the pressure on the virtually bankrupt company to shed jobs and some businesses, like its ailing computer division, and the investment-intensive information systems and semiconductor businesses.

Mr Chris Honnor, a securities analyst at Kleinwort Benson Securities, the broker, said that the break-up value of the company could be about £18 billion, which compares with a current market valuation of about £3 billion.

"If you brought in some of the American whizzkids, you can break up the company in five minutes," he said.

Philips shares fell by FI 0.90 to FI 32.10.



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Rise in lending lowest
for nearly three years

By Colin Narborough, Economics Correspondent

THE corporate sector last month repaid part of its huge borrowings, slowing the rise in bank and building society lending to £3.9 billion – the lowest monthly increase for nearly three years.

The pound and share prices moved ahead, buoyed by the market view that sterling could be participating fully in the European Monetary System this year rather than by the lending data.

The three-month interbank rate, a key money market indicator, closed below the 15 per cent base rate.

The pound gained most against the mark, climbing 2.51 pence to DM2.8121. On its trade-weighted index it closed at 88.7, up 0.5 on Friday's finish. The three-month interbank rate ended at 14.10/15. The FT-SE 100 closed 13 points higher at 2,282.1.

The slowdown from the £9.2 billion lending surge in March was much steeper than the market expected and was welcomed in the City as evidence that high interest rates, after reining back the

consumer, were starting to curb corporate borrowing too. The seasonally-adjusted figures, viewed by some with suspicion, given the early Easter, follow March data inflated by quarterly interest payments. Over the past six months, the average monthly rise has been £7.1 billion.

A Bank of England spokesman said that as a percentage of total lending, the April rise was the smallest since September 1986. In nominal terms, it was the smallest since August 1987. "The trend in the growth of bank lending is easing," he added.

But other Bank data sent a worrying message, with M0 – the narrow money measure targeted by the Treasury – showing annual growth above market expectations at 7.3 per cent in April, up from 6.3 per cent in March. Mr John Major, the Chancellor, predicted in the Budget that it would be "some months" before M0 fell back within its 1-5 per cent target range.

Mr Glenn Davies, chief economist at Credit Lyonnais

Securities, said that, while the M0 figure was "terribly horrendous", the bank lending numbers "had to be encouraging," as they gave plenty of signs of lending coming down.

Separate clearing bank figures showed companies made repayments in most categories last month. Lending to the private sector rose by only £600 million last month after a £3.45 billion rise in March.

Construction companies repaid £256 million, leasing companies £392 million and insurance firms £106 million. Financial firms increased borrowings by £244 million.

Fears about "distress borrowing" appear misplaced, given last month's repayments, which Mr Kevin Darlington, UK economist at Phillips & Drew, attributed to companies curbing spending and destocking.

Personal lending rose by £204 million after a March rise of £851 million and compared with a £666 million rise in April last year.

Comment, page 27

B&C investors seek meeting

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

ANGRY shareholders in British & Commonwealth, the stricken financial services group, are threatening to vote against reconstruction proposals which threaten to dilute their holdings by 90 per cent.

A shareholders' action committee is also hoping to enlist the aid of a large Scottish institution in calling for an extraordinary meeting and force Mr John Gunn, the chief executive, to reveal the company's plans.

According to proposals put together by SG Warburg, B&C's adviser, which were

leaked to the weekend press, the present shareholders would receive only 10 per cent of the shares in the new company.

The other creditors would be granted shares in return for writing down part of the debt. The consortium of 200 banks, which are the senior creditors, would end up with a 24 per cent stake, after a £175 million write-down.

The restructuring envisages an £840 million asset disposal programme to reduce debt.

Mr Paul Shaw, one of the organizers of the shareholders'

action committee, said: "We are not impressed by these proposals, but we have still not been given the real facts. Shareholders are being obliged to take the full goodwill write-offs, while stockholders get 90 per cent of any future benefits of the company."

B&C investors have seen the value of their shares dwindle from a high of more than 500p in 1987 to a suspension price of just 53p.

A B&C spokesman said the restructuring plan is still only in a draft stage, and could not be put to shareholders yet.

Law turns light on secret stakes

By Graham Searjeant
Financial Editor

FUND managers, company secretaries and the Stock Exchange will be working flat out at the end of this month to provide an unprecedented flood of announcements of who owns parts of whom in British industry. Those anxious to know may need to cancel lunch engagements for the first week of June to take advantage of special Stock Exchange arrangements to pump out the news.

Section 134 of the 1989 Companies Act – which obliges shareholders to tell companies of any share stake of 3 per cent, instead of the previous 5 per cent – comes into effect at midnight on Thursday, May 31. Holders will then have to give notice within two working

days, instead of five previously. Quoted companies, under their listing agreement, must then tell the Stock Exchange as soon as possible. The Exchange estimates that there may be as many notifiable holdings between 3 and 5 per cent as there are above 5 per cent.

Many institutions – and potential predators – keep holdings just below 5 per cent to avoid the formalities. Some fund management groups have traditionally avoided disclosure of much bigger holdings where these are held in lots of less than 5 per cent by different accounts.

In theory, all these stakes must be disclosed by the end of Monday, June 4, and be pushed out over the Exchange's company news service to an eager audience of dealers, brokers and the public.

Already, the Exchange says, such

disclosures – including changes of more than a percentage point in disclosed holdings – account for between 10 and 15 per cent of the average 250 to 300 company statements received and put out daily by its company announcements office. This daily tally is expected to double under the new regime, but may increase tenfold in the initial rush.

To try to avoid chaos, the announcements office will operate from 6.30 am to 7 pm, opening an hour early and closing an hour late, from Friday, June 1, to the end of the following week. It will also open during the first weekend.

For the initial period, announcements will also be sent out early in the morning, late in the evening and from 1 pm to 2 pm, when sharp-eyed dealers may be able to steal a march on lunching rivals.

Danger! Minister at work



MR COLIN Moynihan, an Environment Minister, driving in the Under-Secretary of State, starts construction on the Lower Lea Crossing

to London's Docklands by driving in the Under-Secretary of State, starts construction on the Lower Lea Crossing

area. It will link the Royal Docks to the Isle of Dogs and is expected to be completed in early 1992.

Bayer buys
Canadian
butyl firm
for £625mBy Wolfgang Münch
European Business
Correspondent

BAYER, the West German chemicals group, is expanding its interests in synthetic rubber – a product it invented during the First World War – through the Can\$1.25 billion (£625 million) acquisition of Polysar, the rubber division of Nova Corporation, a Canadian chemicals company.

The purchase of Polysar is one of the biggest ever made by Bayer, and marks a departure from its previous acquisition policy.

Nova Corporation put Polysar up for sale in order to reduce interest payments which severely knocked the company's net profits last year.

The deal has not yet been finalized and needs approval by Investment Canada, the authority set up under the Investment Canada Act, which screens the impact of foreign investments on the Canadian economy.

Its decision, which is normally published after 45 days, is final with no right of appeal.

Polysar is one of Nova's healthiest businesses, and last year had a turnover of Can\$819 million and operating profits of Can\$85 million.

In 1990, operating profits are expected to rise to about Can\$120 million.

Through the acquisition, Bayer hopes to strengthen its position in North America. Polysar, which is based in Toronto, employs 3,500 people and produces up to a capacity of 530,000 tons per year.

One of its main products is butyl rubber, used for inner liners of tyres.

Market growth is steady but small, with a recent annual average growth of only 2 per cent, although this is likely to come under pressure as a result of the current recession in the United States motor industry.

Bayer, which has its headquarters in Leverkusen, near Cologne, is one of the world's largest chemical companies and after the acquisition of Polysar, will be one of the leading producers of synthetic rubber.

In 1989, the company achieved sales of DM43.3 billion (£15.5 billion) with net profits of DM2.1 billion.

The rubber business forms part of its polymers division, one of its six operating divisions.

EC ministers move
closer to single
market for energy

From Michael Blyden, Brussels

THE European community has taken two important steps towards creating a single market for energy. Energy ministers of the 12 agreed on transparency of prices for electricity, and on measures making it easier for one country to sell electricity to another via a neighbour's grid.

They agreed, as a first step to making electricity prices more competitive, to force generating authorities to notify Brussels twice a year of their prices both for industry and for private consumers.

This will allow users to guard against over-charging, and enable industries operating in more than one EC member state to shop around for the best prices.

The other agreement will allow a country such as France to sell its cheap nuclear-generated electricity to Portugal via the Spanish grid – opposed by Spain until now.

In his first appearance as Energy Secretary here, Britain's Mr John Wakeham welcomed the measures, and called for similar directives on

gas transit. He also wanted Brussels to tackle the issue of common carriage – the right for any electricity or gas supplier to use the existing supply grid.

Mr Wakeham said the potential benefit for a single energy market were considerable. The commission estimated that liberalization in the electricity sector could save about 55 billion Ecu between 1992 and 2010.

Professor Stephen Littlechild, director-general of the Office of Electricity Supply, has relaxed the rules which exclude Britain's two power generators from competing with the 12 area electricity boards on their own ground (Martin Waller writes).

But he has dismissed most of the requests from National Power and PowerGen, which are anxious for a bigger share of the electricity supply market. National Power wanted the 7 per cent limit on its market share increased in all 12 areas, but Professor Littlechild has allowed modest increases in just four.

Waterford
peace
move fails

By Melinda Wittstock

HOPES of settling a two-month strike by 2,300 workers at Waterford Crystal, the Irish Republic's biggest employer, have been shattered after unions rejected a "peace plan" drawn up by Mr Bertie Ahern, the republic's labour minister.

Waterford Wedgwood said every job in Waterford Crystal's three Irish factories was now "severely at risk," along with "the very survival of Waterford Crystal in Waterford" after the union's refusal to participate in talks with management.

Last month, Waterford threatened to transfer production to Eastern Europe if the workers did not relent.

They went on strike after Waterford stopped "bonanza" payments for its 500 glass cutters. "No talks will take place until the company honours the agreements it has broken," Mr Walter Cullen, a union spokesman said, referring to the end of the bonanza payment scheme.

The labour minister's proposal is understood have included a one-off £60,000 payment – equivalent to the withdrawn bonus payments

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★★★★★

L&G raises estate agency chain to 300

By Matthew Bond

LEGAL & General, the insurance group, has increased the size of its estate agency chain to 300 by buying two more London estate agents.

Unlike most of its rivals, Legal & General has bought nearly all its estate agencies in the last six months — since the residential market went into recession. The company's biggest acquisition occurred in

December, when it paid £19 million for the 103-strong Whitegates chain in the north of England.

Yesterday's acquisitions operate in the region hardest hit by the slump in sales — London. Legal & General is paying a total of £7 million to buy the north London agent Adam Kennedy — with £5 million being paid in cash and

£2 million being subscribed for new preference shares.

With virtually every estate agent in south-east England operating at a loss, the deal offers Kennedy's incumbent management the chance to make a further £9.6 million under a demanding profit-related earn-out agreement.

Mr Colin Harris, L&G's head of financial services, said that L&G had kept out of the market in the hectic 1987-88 period of soaring prices. "We have always said we would buy outlets for our own products provided the price was right," he said. "A few years ago, they were just too high."

Tern loss-making businesses sold

TERN's three-year venture into the world of residential estate agency has cost the construction and property group about £14 million in losses (Matthew Bond writes).

But the losses are to stop. The company has halted the outflow by selling its remaining 50 per cent stake in its estate agency chain to Equity & Law for £2.8 million.

Tern sold the first 50 per cent to Equity & Law last August for £5 million, with the insurance group subscribing for a further £1.5 million of shares in Tern, giving it a 10 per cent stake in the company.

Mr Peter Hickson, who arrived as managing director last September, accepts that the company bought its estate agencies at the top of the market and has now sold them at the bottom. Over a two-year period Tern paid about £19

million for the four chains it acquired — Nationwide, Badgers, Windsor Fareham and Townends. After the disposal of 34 agencies a £9.1 million extraordinary loss is being taken, reducing shareholders funds to about £2.5 million. For the fourth year running no dividend is being paid.

Mr Hickson said he had no alternative but to sell the estate agencies. "I saw no way of turning the estate agents back into profit in the short term."

"I'd rather have a low net worth and be profit making, than have high shareholders funds and be loss-making."

Tern made pre-tax losses of £4.98 million in the year to December, with estate agency accounting for £3.04 million of that. Tern plans to concentrate on its profit-making contracting business.

BTR back with sealing firm buy

From John Durie, New York

BTR has agreed to buy Global Automotive Sealing Systems Group from United Technologies Corporation for \$200 million.

The purchase marks BTR's return to the takeover scene after the public relations débâcle of its hostile bid for Norton Company, the Massachusetts abrasives producer, eventually bought last month by the French Compagnie de Saint Gobain for \$1.9 billion.

The ASS Group purchase was made by a BTR subsidiary, Schlegel Corp, acquired last year for \$190 million. Both companies produce rubber seals for cars, with ASS Group concentrating on windscreen seals. Last year, ASS made a profit of \$20 million

after sales of \$275 million, and Schlegel had sales of \$300 million. United Technologies, owner of Pratt & Whitney, the aerospace company, sold ASS to concentrate on core car products, insulation, interior trims and steering wheels.

Mindful of the bid for Norton, during which the target company generated a political campaign against BTR attacking its alleged practice of sacking staff after US takeovers, Mr John Cahill, BTR's chief executive, said that the acquisition was "another example of BTR using its financial resources and management expertise to enhance its subsidiaries' long-term stability, growth and financial help."

Goldsmiths shares slide

SHARES in Goldsmiths Group, the upmarket jeweller and watch retailer, slipped 20p to 116p after it revealed that its gearing had reached 96 per cent by year-end.

However, results for the year to March 3 were broadly in line with the company's forecast when it returned to the stock market in January. Pre-tax profits rose 79 per cent to £4.06 million, compared with the £4.02 million forecast, and sales increased by 28 per cent to £39.6 million.

Pro-forma earnings per share, adjusted for the flotation were 13.8p, 0.2p better than forecast. The interim dividend is 1.4p.



Piasiecki forecasts met

Progress report on Sock Shop rescue due

By Martin Waller

SHAREHOLDERS in Sock Shop International, Miss Sophie Mirman's battered niche retailer, will learn today what progress has been made by the administrators put in to salvage the company in February.

Miss Mirman said last night she was still optimistic that the group would be rescued.

The administrators, Mr Peter DuBuisson and Mr Philip Sykes, of BDO Binder Hamlyn, have been putting together a rescue plan involving the injection of cash by an unnamed third party, thought to be a private company, in return for a hefty chunk of Sock Shop. The company is 80 per cent owned by Miss Mirman and Mr Richard Ross, her husband.

The shares have been suspended at 34p for the past three months, and shareholders will be looking for reassurance that their investments are not worthless.

Last week, the administrators went to the Companies Court to get a three-month extension for their rescue plans, originally due to be announced by yesterday.

But analysts were last night dubious about the chain's chances of survival, even under new ownership.

Sock Shop's downfall came when it became locked into high rents for its new outlets at the top of the property market. These could not be met from profits from those stores once the retail market collapsed.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Shares in Soviet truck plant to be sold off

THE huge Kamaz complex, which produces most Soviet heavy trucks, is planning to sell shares to customers, private citizens and foreign firms to raise capital to revitalize its assembly line and compete worldwide. Mr Nikolai Bekh, the plant director, revealed in *Pravda* that 49 per cent of Kamaz shares would be sold. The state would retain the rest.

Under the programme, 13 Kamaz factories would receive an estimated 6 billion roubles (almost £6 billion) of investment by the year 2000. The plan goes further than the previous Soviet share offerings, and places full control in the hands of the shareholders. The Kamaz enterprise consists of 18 plants and 200 service centres. It has built more than 1 million trucks since 1976.

Mecca asks for deadline

MECCA Leisure Group has asked the City Panel on Takeovers and Mergers to set a time limit on how long the Rank Organisation has to bid for the company. Rank said last week that a full bid for Mecca was among the options open to it. Mecca is trying to persuade the Panel to decide a deadline after which Rank would be blocked from bidding for a given time.

McLeod up at halfway

McLEOD Russel, the surface coatings, textiles and property group, lifted interim profits for the six months ended March 31 to £4.6 million from £4.26 million. Earnings per share rose 21 per cent to 7.05p and the interim dividend is 2.75p (2.5p). Plans for the possible buy-in of the company's own shares are to be put to an extraordinary general meeting.

Proteus to join USM

PROTEUS International, a Cheshire-based company involved in the development of computer-aided molecular design for use in the pharmaceutical industry, is joining the USM through a £4.19 million placing.

Allied Provincial Securities is placing 5.37 million shares — 25 per cent of Proteus's enlarged share capital — at 84p each, capitalizing the company at £18.05 million. The financial projection for the year to end-March 1991 shows sales of £5.13 million, research and administrative costs not exceeding £2.4 million, and interest income of £300,000. Based on this, the company would have a p/e of nine.

LEP to open Prague office

LEP Group, the transport and distribution group, is returning to Czechoslovakia after 50 years by establishing an office in Prague, to open in July and offer a full range of services, including air and sea transport. LEP earlier announced the opening of an office in East Germany, before the Second World War. LEP owned a company in Czechoslovakia operating in Prague and Brunn.

PAT asset value dips

NET asset value at Personal Assets Trust has slipped by 6 per cent to 57.74p (61.44p). Pre-tax revenue fell from £305,000 to £219,000 in the year to end-April. Total income fell from £476,000 to £395,000. Earnings per share slid from 1.46p to 1.09p, but the dividend is unchanged at 1.0p for the year. At April 30, 62 per cent of assets were in Britain and 38 per cent in North America.

Wharfedale cuts loss

WHARFEDALE, the loudspeaker maker, which took control of Audio Fidelity, the troubled consumer electronics group, cut pre-tax losses from £2.34 million to £191,000 in the half-year to December, the period before the merger. Sales have since risen by 75 per cent, and the business is now profitable.

Turnover rose 46 per cent to £8.67 million, earnings per share were 0.7p, thanks to a tax credit of £423,000, against a 29.1p loss per share. There is again no interim dividend, and a full-year payment is unlikely. An extraordinary loss of £496,000 relates to disposals.

Expansion at Argos continues

By Melinda Wittstock

ARGOS, the catalogue showroom retailer, emerged from BAT Industries last month in a £600 million flotation, reported an 8.4 per cent rise in trading profits to £4.9 million for the first quarter of the year.

Sales during the period, in which Argos opened five more stores, were up 16.3 per cent to £150 million, with an underlying sales growth of 9.1 per cent.

Argos, now one of Britain's six biggest retail groups with 256 stores, plans to open between 25 and 30 stores this year. Mr Bob Stewart, finance director, said company research indicated that 344 more cities and towns have populations large and affluent enough to support new Argos stores.

The group is also looking at opportunities for expanding catalogue retailing on the Continent. The shares rose 1p to 205p.

Turriff to face AGM writ row

By Neil Bennett

TURRIFF Corporation, the construction and plant hire group, faces an embarrassing row at its annual meeting today when shareholders press for details of a £1.75 million writ served by two former employees.

Mr Michael Quinn and Mr Jim Quinn are suing Turriff over its acquisition in 1988 of Essexcare, a West Midlands trench-digging equipment supplier they owned.

The case is not mentioned in Turriff's annual accounts.

The Quinn brothers are claiming the money is due from a two-year earn-out agreement, based on profits. They suggest Essexcare failed to meet profit targets due to Turriff's mismanagement.

Turriff paid an initial £500,000 for Essexcare, which made only marginal profits in 1988, and last year slumped to a £400,000 loss.

The Guinness Trial

Saunders held on 'DTI evidence'

By A Correspondent

POLICE investigating the Guinness scandal arrested Ernest Saunders, the former chief executive, without any independent evidence, a court heard.

Detective Chief Superintendent Richard Botwright, the officer in charge of the case, said Mr Saunders was arrested on May 6, 1987, more than a year after Guinness won the battle for Distillers.

Mr Botwright told Southwark Crown Court Mr Saunders was arrested for allegedly attempting to pervert the course of justice and alleged offences under the Companies Act. He was arrested at his solicitors' offices in Lincoln's Inn after his seventh interview with Department of Trade inspectors investigating the bid.

Cross-examined by Mr Richard Ferguson, QC, defending Mr Saunders, Mr Botwright said Mr Saunders was followed from the DTI to his lawyers' offices. He said police acted on information but denied there was any communication with the inspectors.

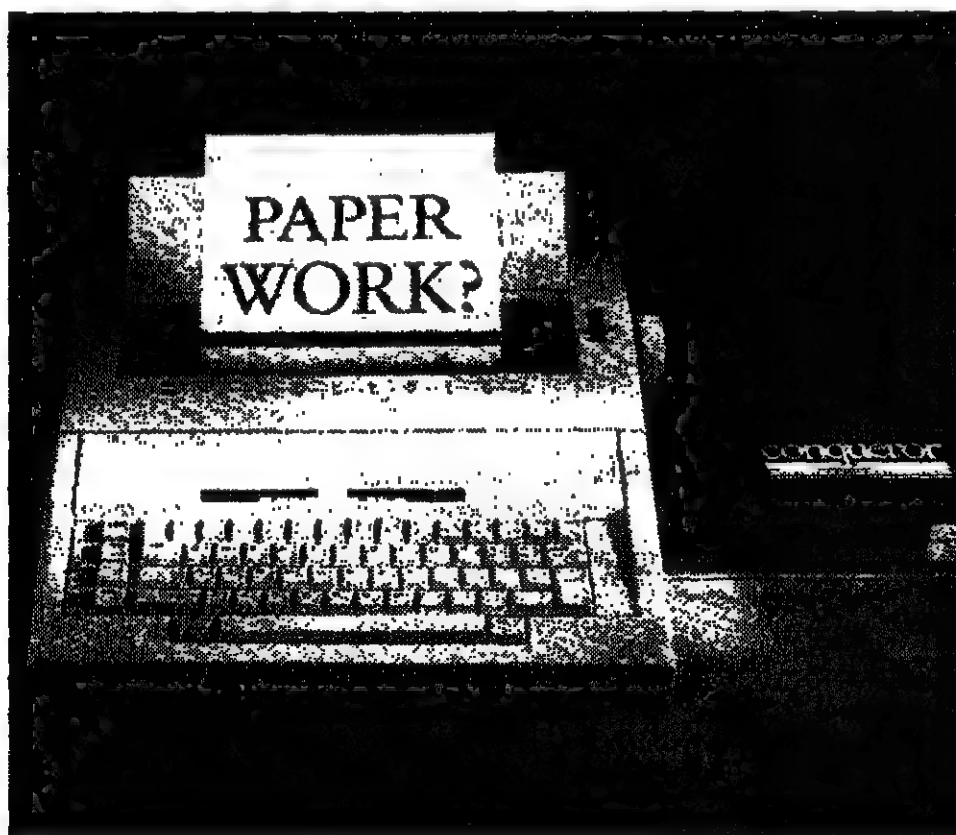
Mr Botwright, the 50th and final witness to give evidence

before the jury, said the police had received transcripts of the interviews. He added that before arresting Mr Saunders, the DTI statements and sworn affidavits to be used for civil proceedings were the only evidence the police held.

Mr Ferguson asked: "The police had not themselves obtained any evidence other than the statements and the affidavits prior to the arrest of Saunders?" Mr Botwright said: "That's obviously right."

Mr Ferguson asked: "Am I right in saying if the police sought to interview Mr Saunders he would be perfectly entitled to say he refused to answer questions?" The officer replied: "That's right." But he agreed that when questioned by the DTI, Mr Saunders had to answer their queries.

Mr Botwright confirmed all the four defendants, Mr Saunders, aged 54, Gerald Ronson, aged 50, Anthony Parnes, aged 44, and Sir Jack Lyons, aged 74, were of previous good character. They variously deny 24 charges including theft, false accounting and Companies Act breaches. The trial continues.



In short, we are. Wiggins Teape Appleton is a leading manufacturer of speciality business papers and supplied over 1 million tonnes of paper in 1989.

For example, we're the world's number one in the manufacture and sale of carbonless papers with the broadest range of products used to make multipart business forms, such as receipts, invoices and statements.

We are a leading manufacturer of thermal papers with over 30% of the US market and some 15% in Europe. Sales of thermal paper, used in fax machines and bar code label printing, have seen high growth thanks to the speed and convenience of both these processes.

In Europe we're one of the largest manufacturers of fine watermarked business stationery.

WIGGINS
TEAPE
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MAKING PAPER WORK

We have long established and internationally known brands such as Conqueror, now available in 70 countries worldwide. Other brands include NCR Paper* and Idem carbonless paper brands, and Optima thermal paper. All essential to today's business technology.

And through our own commitment to technological leadership, we are constantly working to improve the quality of our products and efficiency of our processes to meet the high standards our customers expect.

As the largest UK-owned paper group, Wiggins Teape Appleton aims to maintain and build on its leading position in the speciality branded business papers industry.

Euro rail link decision on a slow track to Number Ten

No new chairman of a company, let alone the chairman of a nationalized industry responsible to the public purse, would be so silly as to make a far reaching and possibly controversial decision without examining all the options. So it is no surprise that Bob Reid, casing himself into the chairman's office at British Rail, has reopened the file on the proposed rail link between the Channel tunnel and the capital. He would be foolish indeed if he merely accepted the conventional wisdom that the European Rail Link consortium was the only viable option, and that the other possibilities be rejected.

While Reid's thoroughness and caution is to be welcomed, it should be remembered that a political decision on the link is already overdue, and Reid is unwittingly allowing the politicians more time to fudge and fumble by inviting the other contestants in this curious beauty

contest to freshen up their faces and take to the catwalk yet again. However attractive some aspects of the alternative schemes may appear (for instance, in the Ove Arup link via Stratford, South London is left undisturbed as the trains will thunder towards London across the Essex marshes), they are far more expensive than the European Rail Link proposals. At the very least, they would cost a billion and a half more than the European Rail Link route, and since the real argument within the Treasury, the Department of Transport and British Rail is about how the line will be financed, the extra cost alone would put them out of the running unless there were overwhelming non-financial considerations.

It is thought that the decision has moved from both the Treasury and the DoT, and into the parlour of Number Ten. It so happens that the Prime Minister

is taking a keen personal interest in another European matter, the siting of the proposed theme park to rival EuroDisneyland. Paris wants it and has put up a package of incentives to the promoters, including access to the high-speed rail system. London also wants to play host, and has been accommodating on the planning front. The Ove Arup line steams across the Rainham marshes, site of the park if it comes to Britain. A connection between the two matters? Possibly.

Meanwhile, Eurotunnel is approaching the next phase in its financing and would like the matter to be settled. It is hardly comforting for the Japanese bankers being courted this month by the Eurotunnel roadshow that

there is still so much indecision. That situation was made worse, rather than better, yesterday when Cecil Parkinson, speaking at a conference organized by the *Financial Times*, said that "arrangements to service the tunnel never envisaged a fast link." Really?

The pound continued to defy gravity yesterday — the gravity of the economic situation — rising another 0.5 on the effective rate index to 88.7. Money market rates, which last week were held above base rate, were allowed to drift down in

response to sterling to below 15 per cent, with the bellwether three-month interbank rate closing at 14 1/8 per cent bid. One-year money is now 14 1/4 per cent, indicating a belief that rates are bound to be lower a year hence than they are now.

The movement of the last few days shows that fantasies can be just as strong as facts. Nothing of substance has changed in the Government's position on membership of the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System from this time last week. The Government is committed to joining as it has been since last July. The conditions for joining are still the same.

What has changed is markets' perception. The combination of an interview with the Chancellor, John Major, in the *Wall Street Journal* and Mr Major's speech to the Confederation of British Industry has begun to convince investors that the Prime

Ministerial veto has been lifted. The result is a strong rise in sterling and an associated dip in interest rates. No longer need ERM fanciers rest on theory in their claim that joining would sustain sterling at a lower level of interest rates. The evidence is there for all to see.

This working experiment is in itself likely to reinforce the probability that Britain will join. Labour's trump card in presenting itself as more committed to dealing with inflation than the Government is its determination to join the ERM. By joining at an electorally judicious moment the Government could both steal some of Labour's clothes and help bring down interest rates without re-stoking inflation.

None of this means ERM membership is a painless panacea. But at least nobody now needs to speculate about the possible short-term effect of ERM membership. We have seen the future and it works.

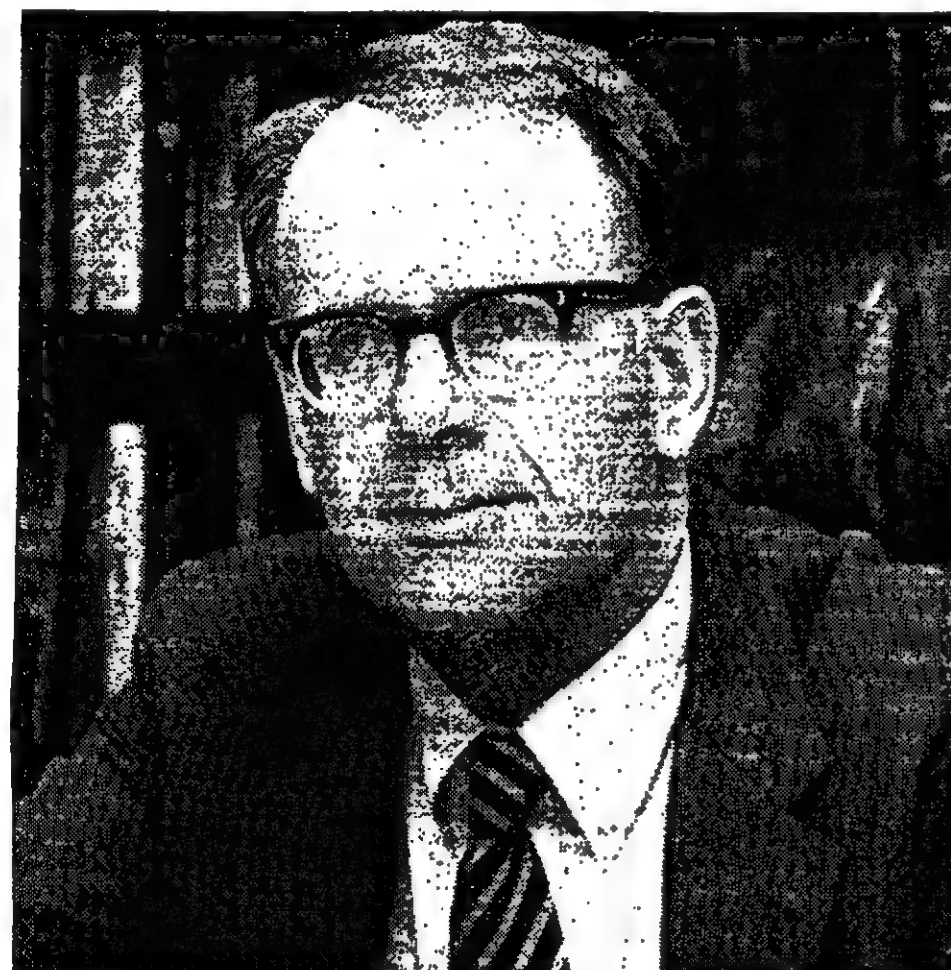
COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

No pounding

The pound continued to defy gravity yesterday — the gravity of the economic situation — rising another 0.5 on the effective rate index to 88.7. Money market rates, which last week were held above base rate, were allowed to drift down in

Lavish generosity of Guerin, the church chorister



James Guerin: Lancaster city regarded him as one of its favourite sons

MR JAMES Guerin, founder of the company enmeshed in the multi-million dollar fraud which has rocked Ferranti International, is riddled with contradictions.

He is a deeply religious man who sang in a small church choir, a father of five and generous giver to charity. There is no suggestion that any of Mr Guerin's favourite charities benefited in any way from the fraud which hit Ferranti. Yet much of the money he gave to worthy causes came from profits made by selling military equipment such as missiles and cluster bombs.

He was appointed deputy chairman by Ferranti, which paid £460 million for the company he founded, International Signal and Control. Last year Ferranti discovered it had to write off assets worth £215 million because some of the ISC contracts simply did not exist, and it is now suing him and eight other people and companies in a bid to recover the money. Ferranti came close to collapse and was forced into a massive asset sale to stay in business.

Mr Guerin has consistently denied that he has done anything wrong, but last week his private company, Parent Industries, admitted a charge of racketeering and agreed to pay a fine of \$4.4 million.

He founded Parent Industries in 1982 to oversee his non-ISC businesses — a sports complex and restaurant, a travel agency, a precision tool manufacturer and an electronics company.

Shortly afterwards his Parent Foundation began to donate huge sums to charity, much of it anonymously.

He was well liked by his employees, at Parent and at ISC, where he often put in a 12-hour day in the high-tech building on the outskirts of Lancaster, population 53,000. ISC was, until the fraud was discovered, one of the city's biggest employers. About 1,100 people are employed there now with almost 260 directly involved with production. Another 1,000 workers are based elsewhere in the United States.

The plant now has to overcome the stigma of Ferranti's problems, with Mr Bruce Magill, who was until two months ago president of Ferranti International Defence Systems (the old ISC business), doing all he could to drum up business.

He met with little apparent success and two months ago was moved to California to another subsidiary, the Marquardt Company. His place at

Ferranti International Defence Systems was taken by Mr Alan Greenberg from Ferranti's Cardion company in New York, another former ISC subsidiary.

According to one of the ISC employees in Lancaster, no contracts have been awarded to the plant this year.

"It's very quiet, and it has been since the first of this year," he said. "We are still finishing our old contracts and they are hoping they'll get some new ones, but nothing has come in. We're in a state of limbo."

The company has been fighting for US government contracts and the ISC affair could not have come at a worse time.

"Bruce Magill was trying to convince the government that

Ferranti International Defence Systems was not involved in the hoop-la that was going on and that we should be awarded contracts, but I'm not so sure he succeeded, and peace breaking out means fewer contracts all round," said the ISC employee.

"I keep thinking that one day I'll pick up the paper and read the headlines saying that this is it, they're closing the plant, and sometimes I expect them to say that we've won a big contract and we're saved."

Lancaster County is typical American farming country — fewer than 400,000 people, almost 600,000 cattle, pigs and sheep, and more than 10 million chickens.

Lancaster city is small-town America, with two trains a day to neighbouring Philadelphia.

Mr Guerin threw himself into the town's civic life, becoming a director of the 1,700-member Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the city's cultural centre, the Fulton Opera House. He loved the place and it regarded him as one of its favourite sons.

When the scandal broke, Mr Guerin left for Florida, blaming bad publicity. But he left behind a hard core of friends and associates who remember him only as a caring, generous benefactor of the community.

He anonymously helped Lancaster's sick, homeless and elderly throughout the 1980s to the tune of about \$10 million.

Most of the people he helped did not realize the cash came from the weapons man-

ufacturer. He appointed Mrs Wanda Rupp, a Sunday school teacher, to act as his agent and she wore out four cars driving round the county, handing out \$200,000 a year to worthy causes, mainly people who were not helped by government programmes.

She helped thousands of people pay their medical bills, clothe their children, and pay their rent.

A doctor in Washington was given \$100,000 a year to supply local medical help for the poor.

Mr Guerin paid the salaries of the Rev Barry Stahl and nine assistants so that they could travel around the county visiting lonely old folks at nursing homes, boarding houses and hospitals. The cost: \$250,000 a year.

Mr Guerin personally gave the treasurer of his local church — the Church of God in Landisville, where he sang in the choir — cheques for up to \$75,000 a year to spend on church youth and overseas missions. "It was always anonymous, sometimes people guessed but I was the only one who knew," said Mrs Beulah Dougherty.

His Parent Foundation handed out millions of dollars in the form of five-year grants: a housing project for the homeless received \$20,000, a day care centre was given \$25,000 and the Lancaster Symphony Orchestra received an annual \$15,000.

The father of five also gave \$15,000 a year to the Planned Parenthood Organisation, and handed out \$1.4 million to orphanages in the Philippines between 1983 and 1989.

Usually he went to great lengths to conceal the source of the funds. Mrs Rupp said: "I said I represented a group of Christian business people who chose to use some of their money for people in the community. Actually it was just Mr Guerin. There were no others."

He has left Lancaster, but he is by no means in hiding. He answers the telephone at his home in Naples, Florida, and politely refuses to comment on the ISC affair and its repercussions. "My lawyer has advised me not to comment and I am following his advice," he says.

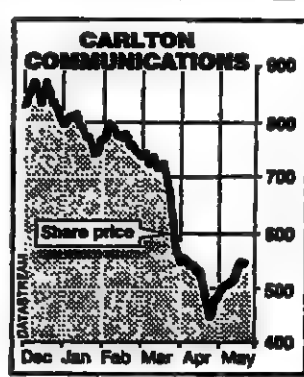
It is a statement he makes many times, repeating it parrot-fashion no matter what question he is asked. Ferranti shareholders who want to try it for themselves can call him on (813) 6494174.

Stephen Leather
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

AB Foods

ASSOCIATED British Foods complains about tough margin pressure, but it will not be

TEMPUS Payout boost props Carlton



WELL may Mr Michael Green, the chairman and chief executive at Carlton Communications, move to put some much-needed support under the share price, virtually halved at one stage this spring against a price of \$50p in December.

The past few months have been miserable for Carlton, with legal squabbles over patents, now resolved in its favour, speculation that it might take a stake in BSB, disappointment over the £163 million the Cosworth car engines business fetched and what was viewed in the City as a veiled profits warning.

Pre-tax profits came in at £64.9 million in the six months to end-March, up from £42.1 million, but with the benefit of a £16 million to £17 million contribution from UEL, including Cosworth.

Carlton has broken with all tradition and provided a divisional profits breakdown, revealing that while margins for television and film services rose by perhaps 3 per cent, for television, video and sound products they fell about 5 per cent, partly because lack of video duplication capacity meant that about £20 million of work had to be subcontracted.

The shares dropped 30p to 510p on the figures as bullish traders who had pushed them ahead in past weeks took their profits. The indicated dividend for the year (14.05p) puts Carlton on a prospective yield of about 3.7 per cent.

The UEL acquisition will cut earnings pre-tax profits in the £160 million area, the shares are changing hands on a respectable multiple of slightly more than 9. The collapse in the price should be over, but given the cautious outlook the shares look fairly valued for now.

Healthy cash and investment balances of £1.2 billion, up from £1.1 billion, generated a gross £131.5 million, against £92.2 million in the year ended March, to help ABF finish its year with a pre-tax profit of £283.8 million, against £237.1 million.

The second interim dividend of 7.7p (6.5p), payable September 3, makes 11p (9.3p) for the year.

Turnover rose by 11.1 per cent to £2.77 billion, but trading profit rose by only 4.9 per cent to £159.3 million. British manufacturing operations were hard pressed, and Northern Ireland retail activities faced intense second-half competition. It was left to the strength of overseas operations to save the day, and that looks like being the case again.

Wage pressures in Britain are not likely to be easily passed on to the price of basic foods, so margin pressure is here for a while yet. However, ABF is more than likely to see pre-tax profits rise again.

Of greater stock market interest is whether ABF will bid for Belford, in which it holds a 23 per cent stake, and what are its intentions towards Unigate, where a 2 per cent stake is held.

Meanwhile, the cash/investment holdings equate to about 275p a share. Yesterday's price was 390p. Warnings about margin pressure have seen some fine tuning of 1990 profit estimates from £310

million to £305 million, but the prospective p/e of 8.7 still makes the shares a worthwhile defensive hold.

Amber Day

IT IS almost two years since Mr Philip Green, a former owner of the Jean Jeanie retail chain, arrived at Amber Day Holdings. He brought with him the Review chain of menswear shops and subsequently acquired Woodhouse, a retailer of designer garments. But from the outset, Mr Green said he wanted to spend up to £50 million on another shop chain.

His choice of the What Everyone Wants Group will come as a surprise, given his earlier approach to Moss Bros. What Everyone Wants is a large discount retailer of womenswear in Scotland, where four fifths of its turnover is generated. It sells 8 million blouses and 7 million skirts a year — quite amazing given a population of 5 million north of the border.

Why Mr Gerald Weisfeld, WEW's founder, is prepared to sell a company whose profits have grown at an annual rate of 35 per cent for the past 19 years is a mystery, especially as the exit p/e ratio works out at about 11 on WEW's £6.64 million profits in the 12 months to January. One benefit is that he will end up with 15 per cent of Amber Day's equity.

The deal is not without risks for Mr Green, who has yet to decide whether to take up his entitlement in the five-for-eight rights issue and maintain his stake at 13 per cent. After writing off £34 million of goodwill, Amber will have negative net assets of £3 million and £30 million of loan notes to service.

On pro-forma brokers' estimates of £6.1 million before tax and earnings of 4.1p, the shares would be on a prospective p/e ratio of 11 at the ex-rights price of 47p. In the current climate, it will require strong nerves to buy them.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Vanities singed

ANYONE who has read *Bonfire of the Vanities* would have appreciated the mild unease that set in when, after a night at the New York Yankees baseball stadium, a coachload of City analysts on a tour of North America, hosted by cable and construction group BICC, broke down in the Bronx. Recalling what had happened to Sherman McCoy, Master of the Universe, when he lost his way in the Bronx — not one of New York's safest areas — the analysts were relieved when a mechanic turned up and helped them on their way. That perhaps explains why, most of the time, BICC used two jets to fly the analysts around — a 10-seater luxury Gulfstream complete with a stewardess, and a much smaller six-seater. Public relations man Tim Sharp insisted that the analysts take turns at the white-knuckle ride in the small jet, with the exception of Rory Sweetman of BZW who declared "ear problems" and refused to do his stint. Meanwhile 6ft 3in Scot Sandy Morris, of County NatWest WoodMac, is unlikely to live down the fact

that on all name badges and written material he was referred to as "Miss Sandy Morris." "If I'd known," he growled, "I would have packed a dress." Also constantly misspelled, but apparently far less embarrassed at it, was David Berks, of Cazenove, which was usually reprinted as "Cazanova."

WISE words indeed from a Dorset parish newsletter: "One of the best tests of religion is to find yourself in church with nothing less than a £20 note in your wallet."

G'day mates

BRUCE Gynge, the eccentric managing director of TV-am — eccentric since he is reputed to spend a good few minutes of every day standing on his head, practicing eastern mysticism — discovered last night that, in the end, your past always catches up with you. For the fact that he was chosen as one of the guest speakers at a dinner at the Savoy Hotel to promote the concept of Melbourne as the host city for the 1996 Olympics — exactly 40 years after it last did so — was not only due to the fact that he was born in Australia's second city. It had more to do, in fact, with Gynge's debut as a 21-

year-old television presenter, in 1956, which coincided not only with the then Olympics, but also with the first ever television transmission in Australia. Gynge, now 60, was, in short, the first face Australian television viewers ever saw.

Gold forever

CITY traditions die hard, even when a Hanson takeover gets in the way. Yesterday saw the 24th publication of the annual, authoritative survey on gold, *Gold 1990*, which used to come from the stable of Consolidated Gold Fields, and whose demise was threatened when the Hanson takeover, in 1989, was complete. It has now made its appearance under the guise of its new owner, Gold Fields Minerals Services, a joint venture set up last November by three associates of ConsGold — Gold Fields of South Africa, Newmont Mining and Renison Goldfields Corporation — to ensure that the statistical bible of the gold world lives on. GFMS' chief executive Stewart Murray reveals that the print run will be 14,000 and that the survey will be translated into Portuguese, Spanish and Japanese.

MOBILE telephones were given a whole new meaning in the Spanish city of Serrano the other day — and one which would transfer easily to traffic-clogged London — when a journalist was stuck in a traffic jam, becoming increasingly late for an appointment. As she grew hot and bothered, trapped in her car, a saviour appeared at her car window with a bag full of portable telephones. This enterprising senior duty rented her one for an enterprising sum and, when she had made her apologetic call, moved on to his next captive customer.

Doubling up

WITH the present incumbent, Charles Anson, off to become the Queen's press secretary, his role as head of group corporate affairs at Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, will be assumed by Peter Churchill-Coleman, a life-long KB man. At 17 Coleman, now 46, joined the Newbury office of Robert Benson Lonsdale, one of KB's constituent firms. Now company secretary, he will effectively run both departments. "I do feel a bit like the hall porter at Rugby," he quips, "the boys come and the boys go."

Action man

LACKLUSTRE trading volumes in the Square Mile have been driving frustrated brokers into the streets — and some have even been taking to the air. Taking the London marathon in his stride, James Capel's leisure salesman Patrick Houston is now preparing for his next challenge — the Berlin Marathon. Houston — who is also a dab hand at paragliding — is frequently spotted running from the City to his home in Notting Hill Gate, of an evening, wearing — what else — a James Capel T-shirt. And the craze seems to be spreading. For, on the Berlin run in September he will be accompanied by fellow leisure team-mates Max Dolding and Tim Bates, and the firm's agency man Matthew Capp. Houston, still recovering from a gruelling 126-mile canoe race he recently tackled with Alex Smith, of Banque Indosuez, clearly sees such adventures as a means for his firm to cut costs, given those low volumes. "Lunches are getting so expensive we're thinking of having canteen runs," he quips. Fund managers be warned.

Carol Leonard

JOHNSTON GROUP PLC

- Turnover in 1989 rose by 8%.
- Dividend increased by 13%.

"Generally the outlook for the Group is good and the directors are confident that the efforts to improve the management and performance of subsidiary companies will result in a fitter Group well placed to take advantage of the considerable opportunities available in the 1990's."

Graham Johnston
Chairman

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

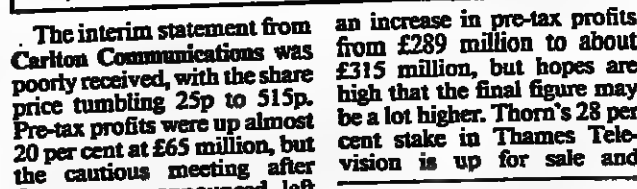
	1989 £000	1988 £000
Turnover	107,086	99,136
Profit before tax	7,322	8,072
Dividend per ordinary share	13.0p	11.5p
Net asset value per ordinary share	408.59p	393.02p

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary, Johnston House, Hatchlands Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1BG.

Road maintenance specialists, mechanical and hydraulic engineers, civil engineers, property developers, concrete and g.r.p. pipe manufacturers and roadstone suppliers.

Rolls-Royce accelerates on hopes of American support

margins in a static home market has made profit growth difficult in food manufacturing.



ALPHA STOCKS

Michael Clark

Resources, I feel bound to respond to Mr Brougham's letter (May 9).

In the last report and ac

Yours faithfully,
DAVID NORMAN,
Chairman,

Claim challenged

Exports boost

Fairline Boats

STRONG exports helped Fairline Boats, the Northamptonshire luxury boat builder, improve pre-tax profits by 10 per cent to £2.0 million in the half year to end March. Earnings per share climbed from 34.9p to 38.0p and the interim dividend is raised to 7.15p (6.5p). The shares firmed by 5p to 728p.

MAJOR INDICES

New York 2844.21 (+24.80)
 Dow Jones 2844.21 (+24.80)
 Tokyo
 Nikkei Average 31755.05 (-248.67)
 Hang Seng 2390.69 (+4.94)
 Amsterdam
 CDS Tendency 118.1 (-1.1)
 Paris CAC 4589.0 (-24.0)
 Frankfurt DAX 1811.19 (-32.47)
 Brussels
 Generali 6133.70 (-23.38)
 Zurich CMC 552.58 (-4.04)
 Zurich S&K Gen 623.3 (-2.2)
 London
 FTSE 100 4990.84 (-24.80)

FT.—A All Share	1122.04 (+3.4)
FT.—"500"	1230.45 (+7.1)
FT.—Gold Mines	212.6 (+5.5)

FT. Fixed interest	87.45	(+0.1)
FT. Govt Secs	79.23	(+0.4)
Bargains	255	
SEAC Volume	316.2	

*Denotes latest trading price

Dow edges

higher in

New York
SHARES were lower in early trading as investors continued to consolidate recent gains, traders and analysts said. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 2.08 points, 2,821.99 and declining index were narrowly ahead of gaining shares.

"It (the market) was volume brought and it is adjusting to that run-up. But consolidation is orderly," said Mr Phil Roth, chief technical analyst at Dean W Reynolds.

The average rose more than 18 points last week, 91 week before and 65 the week before.

● Tokyo — Share prices fell in light trading, with the Nikkei index, which dropped 47 points on Friday, ending at 14,747.40. Another 248.67 down further 248.67, down 31,765.05. About 350 million shares were traded, a 482.30 million on Friday. The decline was blamed on general reluctance to buy current prices, which had recovered from the lows of early April.

● Hong Kong — Share prices edged higher, with investors increasingly confident that the impact of political factors relating to China was decreasing, brokers said. They said that the market expected US Congress to renew China "most favoured nation" status. The Hang Seng index fell 7.44 points to 2,933.33.

● Singapore — Strong buying from foreign fund managers pushed shares higher, brokers said. The *Strait Times* index trial index jumped 11.2 points to 1,570.99.

● Sydney — Blue chips led sharp decline in share prices as a bearish market. The Ordinaries index ended 21 points lower at 1,458.0 in turnover.

● Frankfurt — The 30-point Dax index fell 32.41 points to 1,811.18

(Re)

● The Stockwatch service gives readers of The Times instant telephone access to the prices of more than 13,000 shares, unit trusts

ASB Barnett N/P
 Aid Irish np
 Amercoeur N/P
 Clinton Cards N/P
 Ellis & Everd N/P
 Harrison N/P
 Jupiter N/P
 Mid & Scot N/P
 PWS Hldgs N/P
 (issue price in brackets).

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

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4

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT



Richard Hornby
CHAIRMAN

With 16% of all mortgage business in the UK, Halifax Building Society can draw on more experience than any other lender in the housing market. In spite

of difficult market conditions in 1989, we turned that experience to producing a set of excellent results.

Our assets went up 18.6% to £47.9 billion, our gross profit also improved by 16% to £534 million. Most tellingly, net mortgage advances increased to £6.2 billion.

But financial results are not the only way we judge our performance.

The satisfaction of our customers is of most importance to us and so in 1989 we again improved and extended the services we offer.

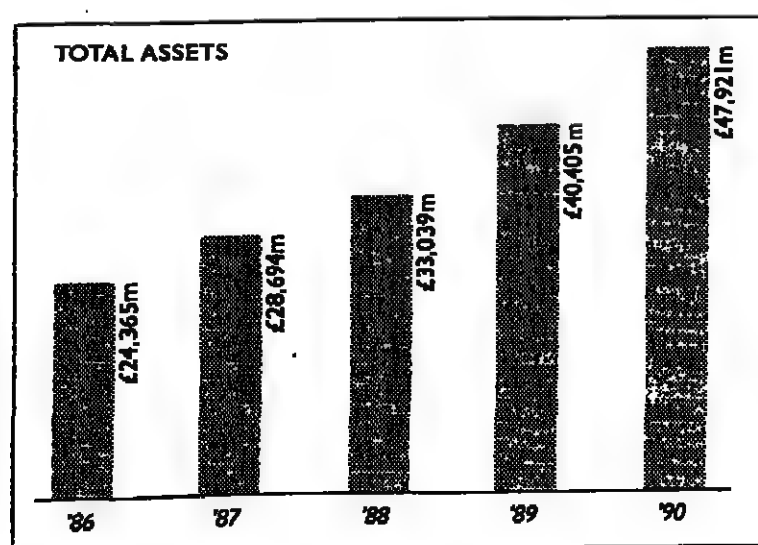
Our primary business is in housing and savings and the market last year was one of the toughest for years – for customers and building societies alike.

Investment and Savings

1989 saw further innovations in our portfolio of investment products.

We introduced a new premium rate product – Capital Xtra – and a regular income account – Monthly Income Xtra.

The market's response to this enhanced product range was particularly encouraging with over £23 billion flowing into our branches.



Banking Services

Perhaps the most significant launch of the year however was our MAXIM current account, which in the first three months alone attracted over 100,000 customers.

With MAXIM, the Halifax can now offer a full personal banking service from cheque book to credit card, from personal loans to travellers cheques.

Later this year, Halifax will launch its

forefront of the mortgage market and we are committed to continued development of our Home Buying Service.

During the year, Halifax Property Services consolidated its position in an extremely difficult market. It will emerge leaner and fitter and well able to compete in the housing market of the future.

Customer Service

The major progress we have made in improving our branch facilities continues to free branch staff from routine administration allowing more time for discussing needs and offering advice to customers, tailoring financial packages to suit them.

A further major development during the year, in our quest to improve on customer services, was the extension of our Financial Services operation, offering a wide range of insurance products.

Our link with Standard Life, Britain's leading life assurance

office, will help us extend our portfolio into Unit Trusts and PEPs.

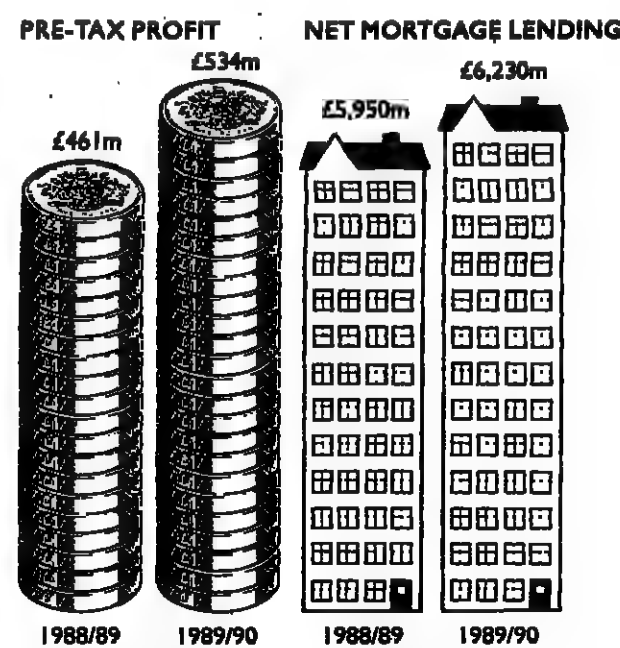
Housing

During 1989, we undertook several initiatives in the housing market.

For example, we introduced a special discount for first-time buyers so helping those seeking to make their first step onto the housing ladder.

Our range of low start schemes was also improved and widened in scope and better terms on our Apex mortgages gave a helping hand to those wanting larger loans.

All of these moves help to keep us at the



Building on Strength

These results, initiatives and innovations show experience at work helping the Society to consolidate its position as the leading mortgage lender and to pursue its aim to be the No.1 provider of personal financial services in the UK.



[illegible][illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES									
Open					High				
Low					Close				
Vol					Vol				
FT-SE 100									
Open	2260.0	2314.0	Previous open interest	52161	Open	2260.0	2314.0	Previous open interest	52161
Low	2240.0	2248.0	2234.0	192	Low	2240.0	2248.0	192	
High	2280.0	2340.0	2340.0	192	High	2280.0	2340.0	192	
Close	2280.0	2340.0	2340.0	192	Close	2280.0	2340.0	192	
Three Month Sterling									
Open	85.04	85.18	Previous open interest	17800	Open	85.04	85.18	Previous open interest	17800
Low	85.04	85.18	85.04	17800	Low	85.04	85.18	17800	
High	85.24	85.28	85.24	17800	High	85.24	85.28	17800	
Close	85.24	85.28	85.24	17800	Close	85.24	85.28	17800	
Three Month Eurodollar									
Open	91.52	91.54	Previous open interest	3715	Open	91.52	91.54	Previous open interest	3715
Low	91.52	91.54	91.52	3715	Low	91.52	91.54	3715	
High	91.54	91.56	91.54	3715	High	91.54	91.56	3715	
Close	91.54	91.56	91.54	3715	Close	91.54	91.56	3715	
Three Month Euro DM									
Open	91.59	91.70	Previous open interest	1299	Open	91.59	91.70	Previous open interest	1299
Low	91.59	91.70	91.59	1299	Low	91.59	91.70	1299	
High	91.70	91.72	91.70	1299	High	91.70	91.72	1299	
Close	91.70	91.72	91.70	1299	Close	91.70	91.72	1299	
COMMODITIES									
LONDON OIL REPORTS									
Even news of another problem at the Brent system failed to inspire a win market. Prices continued to ease. All products were quiet with little interest shown. Talk was a shade weaker with Napier under the most pressure.									
CRUDE OIL (bbls) (US) FOB									
15 day Jun	17.10	-10	17.10	-10	15 day Jun	17.10	-10	17.10	-10
15 day Jul	17.50	-30	17.50	-30	15 day Jul	17.50	-30	17.50	-30
15 day Aug	17.50	-40	17.50	-40	15 day Aug	17.50	-40	17.50	-40
15 day Sep	18.15	-50	18.15	-50	15 day Sep	18.15	-50	18.15	-50
GAS OIL (bbls) (US) FOB									
15 day Jun	17.10	-10	17.10	-10	15 day Jun	17.10	-10	17.10	-10
15 day Jul	17.50	-30	17.50	-30	15 day Jul	17.50	-30	17.50	-30
15 day Aug	17.50	-40	17.50	-40	15 day Aug	17.50	-40	17.50	-40
15 day Sep	18.15	-50	18.15	-50	15 day Sep	18.15	-50	18.15	-50
PRODUCTS (bbls) (US) FOB									
15 day Jun	17.10	-10	17.10	-10	15 day Jun	17.10	-10	17.10	-10
15 day Jul	17.50	-30	17.50	-30	15 day Jul	17.50	-30	17.50	-30
15 day Aug	17.50	-40	17.50	-40	15 day Aug	17.50	-40	17.50	-40
15 day Sep	18.15	-50	18.15	-50	15 day Sep	18.15	-50	18.15	-50
LONDON MEAT									

<u>STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES</u>					
Market rates for May 21	Range	Close	1 month	3 months	
New York	1.6920-1.6940	1.6920-1.6930	1.00-0.99or	2.67-2.58	
Tokyo	1.9121-1.9177	1.9140-1.9177	1.37-1.19or	5.00-0.28or	
Australia	1.5232-3.1617	1.5191-1.6171	1.37-1.19or	5.00-0.28or	
Hong Kong	2.72-26.14	2.71-26.14	26-25	72-70r	
Copenhagen	10.0534-10.7633	10.1521-10.7333	41-35or	111k-100or	
Frankfurt	1.0428-1.0468	1.0428-1.0468	41-35or	105-95r	
Paris	2.0231-2.0138	2.0151-2.0138	1-1or	41-40r	
London	2.73-248.70	2.8701-2.548.70	72r-123d	84-112ds	
Mexico	17.14-17.31	17.14-17.31	5-13r	50-11r	
Singapore	2.29-229.35	2.29-229.35	16-15r	16-15r	
Dubai	10.9889-10.9879	10.6735-10.9879	9-14r	9-14r	
Bombay	2.4968-2.4968	2.4968-2.4968	11r-10r	11r-10r	
Spokane	1.2205-10.2504	10.2374-10.2504	20-20r	5r-5or	
Tokyo	259.21-259.18	259.38-259.71	1-1or	41-40r	
Yamato	19.77-19.78	19.75-19.78	11r-10or	20-20r	
Panama	2.3677-2.4028	2.3677-2.4028	1-1or	31r-31r	

Premiums = pct. Discount = cds.

<u>OTHER STERLING RATES</u>	
Argentina austral*	6827.02-9322.28
Australia dollar	2.2517-2.2510
Bahian dinar	0.6340-0.6340
Brazil cruzeiro	06.9537-96.7277
Cyprus pound	0.7850-0.7950
Finland markka	5-4r
Greece drachma	273.90-277.10
Hong Kong dollar	13.1868-13.1784
India rupee	46-55r
Kuwait dirham KD	4.0095-0.4953
Malaysia ringgit	4.5477-4.5782
Mexico peso	50-11r
New Zealand dollar	2.2547-2.2547
Saudi Arabian riyal	8.3040-8.3890
Singapore dollar	11r-10r
S Africa rand (fin)	8.5113-8.7471
S Africa rand (com)	4.4618-4.4698
Sri Lanka dollar	6.1725-6.2552

*Loyds Bank Rate
By Bidet and Barclays Bank Ltd.

Malaysia	2,7020-2,7030	Switzerland	1,4178-1,4185	Bulgaria (Leningrad)	992,2-992,5
Australia	1,3071-1,3089	Netherlands	1,8625-1,8636	Hong Kong	7,7830-7,7940
Canada	1,1751-1,1786	France	5,5875-5,5925	Portugal	146,15-146,35
Sweden	6,0455-6,0505	Japan	153,20-153,30	Spain	103,10-103,20
Norway	6,4265-6,4315			Austria	11,96-11,97

Prices supplied by Barclays Bank GTS and Exel.

ECHO MARKET DEPOSITS %	
Current:	1 mth 8.00% 7 day 8.00% 6 mth 8.00%
Dollar:	3 mth 8.00% 6 mth 8.00% 1 yr 8.00%
Cash:	8.00%
Deutsche:	7 1/2-8 1/2% 8 1/2-9% 9-9 1/2% 9 1/2-10%
Cash:	8-9%
Deutsche:	8 1/2-9 1/2% 9-9 1/2% 9 1/2-10% 9 1/2-10 1/2%
Cash:	9%-9 1/2%
Swiss:	8 1/2-9% 9-9 1/2% 9 1/2-10% 9 1/2-10 1/2%
Deutsche:	9-9 1/2% 9 1/2-10% 9 1/2-10 1/2%
Yes:	7 1/2-7 3/4% 7 3/4-8% 7 3/4-8 1/4% 7 3/4-8 1/2%
Cash:	7 1/2-8 1/4%

Dollar Cds (%) 1 mth: 8.27-8.32
3 mth: 8.27-8.32 6 mth: 8.40-8.43 12 mth: 8.76-8.79

Italian Gov't (%)
1 mth: 15-14^{1/2} 3 mth: 15-15 6 mth: 15-15 12 mth: 14^{1/2}-14 18 mth: 14^{1/2}-14 24 mth: 14^{1/2}-14

ECGD
Fixed Rate Starting Offer Finance. Make-up day: April

GOLD CDS (%) (Per coin, ex VAT)
Britannia: \$392.00-397.00 (\$225.50-228.50)
Angusport: \$372.00-375.00 (\$220.00-222.00)
Hawkepool: (Per \$392.00-397.00 (\$225.50-228.50)
American Eagle: \$392.00-397.00 (\$225.50-228.50)
New Sovereigns: \$36.75-38.75 (\$21.52-22.75)
Old Sovereigns: \$36.75-38.75 (\$21.52-22.75)

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES						
	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol	
FT-SE 100						
JUN 90	2285.0	2314.0	2265.0	2289.0	5445	Previous open interest 21761
Three month ECU						
Jun 90	91.83	91.83	91.83	91.83	10	Previous open interest \$29

Three Month Eurodollar		Previous open interest		Long Gilt		Previous open interest	
Jan 90	91.53	91.54	91.52	91.58	83-17	83-24	27,580
Feb 90	91.42	91.46	91.41	91.45	84-03	84-03	27,580
Mar 90	91.42	91.46	91.41	91.45	84-03	84-03	27,580
Three Month Euro DM		Previous open interest		Japanese Govt Bond		Previous open interest	
Jan 90	91.59	91.70	91.87	91.58	94-50	94-50	27,580
Feb 90	91.30	91.33	91.23	91.31	94-50	94-50	27,580
Mar 90	91.30	91.33	91.23	91.31	94-50	94-50	27,580
German Govt Bond		Previous open interest		Japanese Govt Bond		Previous open interest	
Jan 90	91.59	91.70	91.87	91.58	94-50	94-50	27,580
Feb 90	91.30	91.33	91.23	91.31	94-50	94-50	27,580
Mar 90	91.30	91.33	91.23	91.31	94-50	94-50	27,580

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سكنا من الاصل

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Advance continues

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began May 14. Dealings end May 25. Contango day May 29. Settlement day June 4.
 \$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks.
 (VOLUMES PAGE 28)

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Union Dair	Banks/Discount	
2	Ranger	Oil/Gas	
3	Ryl Bk Sot (as)	Banks/Discount	
4	Sci & New (as)	Breweries	
5	BICC (as)	Chemicals	
6	Sneybank	Property	
7	Alford-Lyons (as)	Breweries	
8	Unigate (as)	Foodstuffs	
9	Watts Bldg	Building/Roads	
10	Sera Gp	Electronics	
11	Wolstenholme Rink	Chemicals/Plas	
12	Cable Int	Industrial A-D	
13	McKenna	Industrial L-R	
14	Burns (as)	Oil/Gas	
15	RHM (as)	Foodstuffs	
16	Marks Spencer (as)	Drugs/Stores	
17	Codine	Property	
18	Charter Cos	Industrial A-D	
19	Leas (U)	Building/Roads	
20	Read Int (as)	Newspapers/Pub	
21	Davies & Met A	Industrial A-D	
22	Laporte (as)	Chemicals/Plas	
23	Pendragon	Motors/Aircraft	
24	Berkeley Gp	Building/Roads	
25	Jerome (S)	Textiles	
26	Howitt (U)	Industrial E-K	
27	Watkins Hdg (as)	Industrial S-Z	
28	Sally Pack (as)	Foodstuffs	
29	South West	Property	
30	Mor O'Fallon	Paper/Print/Adv	
31	Provident	Banks/Discount	
32	Enn	Drugs/Stores	
33	Br Airways (as)	Transport	
34	Baggeridge Brk	Building/Roads	
35	Heathrow	Industrial E-K	
36	Wolsey	Industrial S-Z	
37	Wilson Bowden	Building/Roads	
38	Arlan	Electronics	
39	Sot TV	Leisure	
40	Barton (as)	Drugs/Stores	
41	Docus	Industrial A-D	
42	Severn Trans	Water	
43	Tesco (as)	Foodstuffs	
44	Dunhill	Drugs/Stores	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £2,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY

The £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was yesterday shared by five winners: Mrs Eileen Hayward, of Enfield, Middlesex; Mr Gerald Cowling Humphrey, of Sidmouth, South Devon; Mrs Kathleen Anderson, of south east London; Mr Mark Berthon, of Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire; and Mrs Alison Hollick, of Comberton, Cambridgeshire, each receive £400.

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Yield
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Yield
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Yield
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Yield
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Yield
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Yield
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Yield
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Yield
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5
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100	99.5	Trust	99.5	-0.5	-0.5	4.5

123	99	Comstock	99	-50	-	-
313	285	Bank	271	-50	-	-
345	194	First Natl Fin	285	+2	17.3	8.3
28	17	GP	20	24	0.3	1.4

THE LAW

Edward Fennell looks at a new law course specially designed to supplement the careers of non-legal professionals

Courses intent on the finer points

Britain may have become a more litigious society, but increasing numbers of people are deciding to "take the law into their own hands".

That is the conclusion of Valerie Aggett, the principal of Holborn College in west London, following the launch last week of a series of specialist courses and diplomas in law and business.

Aimed at bankers, journalists, social workers and other professionals, the courses are believed to be the first high-level legal qualifications in Britain geared to the needs of non-lawyers.

"For some time a variety of people who have an interest in the law, but are not lawyers, have been asking us to run specialist courses in subjects relevant to their particular jobs or careers," Ms Aggett says. "We decided it was time to respond to those requests."

The diploma courses have the backing of the Oxford



Inundated: Valerie Aggett

University Delegacy of Local Examinations, leading to a diploma under the supervision of John Davies, a law don at Balliol. The pass level is reckoned to be the equivalent of a special subject within a degree.

Courses are run primarily on a part-time basis, although there is a full-time version available. Distance learning is also possible.

"There are three compulsory weekends which all students must attend but, apart from that, most students will attend just once a week on our Saturday courses," Ms Aggett says. "It seems to work better than evening classes and certainly suits those who come from outer London."

Among the 17 subjects on offer, the college expects to have most demand for the courses on contract law and company law.

"People in the business community are starting to feel that they need to have greater knowledge of the law rather than having to run off all the time for advice from expensive lawyers," Ms Aggett says.

Another big market for the diplomas is expected to come from police officers. Within two days of launching the courses, the college was inundated by inquiries from police officers who were interested in criminal law and the law of evidence.

"I would have imagined



Learning the laws of the legal jungle: students at Holborn College in west London

they would have covered the subjects in the basic training, but the indications are that they want to know a lot more," Ms Aggett says.

While the courses are aimed at the public, lawyers will not be discouraged from attending. Indeed, as a way of refreshing or updating knowledge, or picking up a new specialism, the courses could have a lot to offer.

Women solicitors turning to the law after child-raising would benefit, while the gaps in professional legal education

for lawyers — especially in fields such as European Community law — are crying out to be filled.

"We are applying to the Law Society for accreditation under the continuing professional education scheme and we are optimistic about being approved," John Fairhurst, the college registrar, says.

What lawyers may have most to fear from the courses, however, is their popularity among rival professionals such as accountants and

surveyors. With direct professional access to the Bar now permitted, and areas such as tax open to direct competition, it could be that these diplomas will be used by those who wish to invade the solicitor's traditional territory.

As inter-professional rivalry intensifies, these courses may become a weapon in the hands of those who wish to beat lawyers at their own game.

Details of the law diplomas are available from The Registrar, Holborn College, 200 Greyhound Road, London W14 (071-385-3377).

INNS AND OUTS

Initiatives in bringing east European lawyers to the United Kingdom to learn the principles of English banking and commercial law could soon be replicated in the field of socio-legal studies. Polish lawyers from the Anglo-Polish Legal Association have already visited London and the Czechs and Hungarians are likely to follow. But, according to the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies at Wolfson College, Oxford, all three associations have a broader purpose than the study of commercial law.

This year the Socio-Legal Studies Association, founded through the Oxford Centre, invited Professor Andras Sajó of the Institute of Legal and Administrative Sciences in Budapest, to be the main speaker at its recent annual conference. Bob Deacon, lecturer in law at Leeds Polytechnic, is planning a lecture and study tour by legal scholars from central and eastern Europe in July, a reciprocal visit by British specialists and a summer school for young scholars. The Oxford Centre is to hold a joint Anglo-Polish symposium on family law in April next year. The Centre for the Study of Socialist Legal Systems at University College London has the longest-established links with the eastern bloc, and has been organizing exchanges of scholars with the Soviet Union and Poland for several years.

While the European Commission continues to churn out European legislation at the rate necessary for it to remain on course, what is the European novice's best guide to the Brussels-Strasbourg-Luxembourg circuit? You would expect a chap from the Commission to back a European guide, but no. David Bennett of the Commission's London office last week addressed a conference on the impact of 1992 on British charities and he admitted he owned three guides to the EC produced by the American Chamber of Commerce. "There are none better in my experience," he said, although he did say that publications produced by Britain's Department of Trade and Industry contain some useful information. He did add that, though the American publications will set charities back £160 for the three, the DTI guides are free.

As lawyers are forced to the conclusion that the practice of law has become a business, and a business made 10 times more complicated by the activities of the law-makers in Brussels, there is a growing army of publishers willing to assist them through the minefield. The latest company devoted to the task will be launched on May 30. Chancery Law Publishing, an offshoot of Bloomsbury Publishing, is headed by Andrew Pridoux, who left his position as managing director of Sweet & Maxwell two years ago to work on the new venture. The company plans to bring a fresh approach to law publishing. Mr Pridoux explains: "Chancery Law Publishing has a new European angle, as well as a focus on management. We will tackle the Brussels 'law lake', tracking down laws that are hard to find, and provide lawyers with technical information on the management of their firms."

Brodies, an Edinburgh law firm, is well-known in Scottish circles as a traditional one, catering for the "country set" and assisting them in the search for an estate complete with castle. The firm used to have a strong corporate practice and has now signalled its determination to recapture this market share. Enter John Matthews OBE, its new chief executive until recently president of ICI Brazil. Not only did the firm take the definitely untraditional path of advertising for someone for the new post, indicating a £50,000 salary plus bonuses, but it has appointed a man of commerce. After the display of a commonsense approach to management by his former boss, John Harvey-Jones, in the BBC series, *The Troubleshooter*, the firm must have high expectations of Mr Matthews. Perhaps Brodies will be the first law firm to sell a share to the Japanese.

SCURVENOR

IN HIS article (*The Law*, March 27), Derek Wheatley QC, opposed the adoption of the Vienna Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods on the ground that it was incomplete, and would lead to uncertainty, and that English sales law was superior.

His views must, of course, command respect. But there is another side to the coin. Not everyone would agree that our sales law, based as it is on legislation almost 100 years old and tying risk to property, is better suited to modern sales contracts than the convention rules. But even if it were, there are compelling reasons for ratification.

The convention has already been ratified by 19 states, which include major jurisdictions from the common law family. With support accelerating, it is clear Britain is in danger of being left behind.

Many contracts are concluded informally, such as by telephone, and only the basic terms are agreed. The convention thus fulfils an important gap-filling function. Without the convention rules, it would be necessary to ascertain which law governed the contract, applying the conflict of laws rules of

Why compromise makes sense

Professor Roy Goode urges full support for a convention on the international sale of goods

the forum. This would involve time and expense, as well as encouraging forum shopping.

Then there is the much-vaunted superiority of English law; the belief that contracts count for nothing except where governed by English law. But for every such contract entered into by an English exporter or importer, there is another contract governed by foreign law which may well be less favourable to him than the convention.

An importer confronted with a contract governed by Ruritanian law, with which he may be unfamiliar, that is in a foreign language and which reflects a non-common law tradition, may prefer to have his rights governed by a set of uniform rules which reflect common law as well as civil law influences, that feature in an authentic English text

and which regular usage will make familiar to him.

At present, international traders may have to familiarize themselves with the laws of a large number of foreign countries. It is not sensible to provide them with the opportunity of subscribing to a single uniform law, adapted as they see fit?

In addition, where an English case involves a sales contract governed by foreign law, the parties may have to go to great expense and call in expert evidence. But where the convention rules apply, the court takes judicial notice of them and this expense is avoided.

Often when one party to a contract is reluctant to have the other party's law imposed on him, they compromise and use a neutral law. The convention provides a neutral law which, as its universal-



ity increases, will become ever more convenient.

The convention in no way impairs the freedom of contract enjoyed by businessmen. Parties may exclude the convention almost in its entirety or vary its effects as they please. Thus ratification of the convention does not interfere with

the ability of the parties to select English law minus the convention if they prefer.

It would be better for the UK to ratify sooner rather than later so that English courts can give rulings that might influence the courts of other countries.

The convention is proving attractive to other members of the European Community. The UK would be both unpopular and disadvantaged if it adopted an isolationist attitude.

Where harmonization can be achieved, it helps to eliminate the impact of differences in national laws, thus facilitating cross-border trade and saving time, expense and uncertainty. The conclusion of a sales convention of more than 100 articles has involved a prodigious amount of work and international collaboration spread over years.

The convention is far from perfect, but reflects a sensible compromise of widely contrasting viewpoints. If similar ventures are not to be discouraged, it is important that it receive support.

Professor Goode is the Norton Rose Professor of English Law at St John's College, Oxford University.

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THE LAW

Sex equality won for pensioners

Thursday's decision by the European Court of Justice, in *Barber v Royal Exchange Assurance Group*, is in every sense a landmark judgement. As from May 17, every man and woman in this country is entitled to equal treatment without sex discrimination as regards private occupational pensions benefits and redundancy benefits. We are at last in the same position as men and women elsewhere in the European Community.

No matter that the discrimination arises because the employer or the pension scheme trustees have linked the ages at which men and women can obtain benefits with the pensionable ages of men and women (60 and 65 respectively) under the State pension scheme.

The European Court has decided that occupational pensions benefits are part of the wide concept of "pay", within the guarantee of equality between the sexes in Article 119 of the EEC Treaty, and that the use of different age requirements for men and women as a condition for obtaining those benefits is contrary to Community law.

The same applies to redundancy pay, and, presumably, to pension contributions. For good measure, the Court has also held that every



The European Court has ruled pension benefits and retirement ages for men and women must be the same, writes Anthony Lester, QC

element in an employee's remuneration must be equal to the remuneration of a comparable employee of the other sex. No matter that Parliament has not implemented Article 119 of the EEC Treaty by legislating for sex equality in this field (as the Equal Opportunities Commission has urged for many years). The Court has decided that Article 119 can be directly relied upon in national legislation. The statutory exceptions in British equal pay and sex discrimination legislation (for discrimination in relation to death or retirement) are now displaced by the paramount law of the Community.

Ten years ago the Equal Opportunities Commission, as part of its carefully planned European litigation strategy, supported the first of a series of test cases in Luxembourg to establish that the vital Community principle of equal pay applies to pensions. The EOC was courageous and persistent in pursuing that strategy. It has not been easy. There has been

a real risk that the EEC cases would eat up the EOC's modest legal budget.

In that first British pension reference to Luxembourg (*Warrington v Lloyds Bank Limited*), the European Court completely ducked the issue of principle. In several subsequent cases, such as *Burns, Newcastle and Billing*, the Court was ambiguous and inconsistent in its approach to principle, probably because there was a strong division of opinion among the judges.

These cases caused me to describe the Court as having sounded an uncertain trumpet. We came to view this aspect of Community law through a glass darkly.

But now the full Court has come to a firm conclusion, and the sound of the trumpet out of Luxembourg is certain.

The *Barber* judgement is one of several recent decisions showing that the Court takes the principle of sex equality very seriously. Employers, trade unions, and

public officials will now have to take it equally seriously.

Ever since we joined the Community, successive British Governments have argued before the European Court against the effective application of the principle of equal pay. First they argued that the principle was not directly effective and could not be relied upon directly in national courts. Then they argued that it did not require equal pay for work of equal value. Then, again and again, they contended that pension benefits were outside its scope. Each time they were wrong. The time is surely over for the Government to argue more strongly on the side of equal treatment, and to translate the principle into effective legislation.

During the 1980s, with British Governmental encouragement, a series of EEC directives were approved by the Council of Ministers on a piecemeal and fragmented basis, to introduce equality into this area at a leisurely pace. Wise employers introduced

equality into their pension schemes all the same. But unwise employers chose to maintain discriminatory practices, relying upon existing legal loopholes.

The situation has been transformed by this judgement. The Court has breathed such life into Article 119 of the EEC Treaty that the loopholes in the directives are to no avail.

Trade unions can immediately bring claims for their members, and employers will have no defence. The Court has justly decided that the effects of its judgement will be prospective only (except for cases already in the pipeline). The right to equality dates from May 17.

The *Barber* decision will also help the EOC in pending applications for judicial review, challenging indirect discrimination in the employment protection and social security legislation, and in its campaign for sex equality in the state pension scheme.

In these areas, too, it should not be many more years until genuine equality of treatment is secured. *Barber* is a timely reminder that the principle of equality benefits men as well as women.

● The author is counsel to the Equal Opportunities Commission and a specialist in European and administrative law.



Now equal: both sexes can enjoy the same retirement benefits

Law Report May 22 1990 Court of Appeal

Insurance company defeats widow's admitted claim by 'playing the game'

Foster v Turnball and Others
Before Lord Justice Slade, Lord Justice Russell and Lord Justice Leggatt

[Judgment May 15]

In an action brought by a widow as the administratrix of the estate of her husband killed in a motor vehicle accident, purported service of a writ by her solicitors on the solicitors of the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society as representatives of the Motor Insurers Bureau had been a nullity.

Service of a writ was not at large; it had to be upon a legal person. None of the available candidates to accept service could have been validly served, because none was a party to the action except the defendants, and they were dead.

At best, both firms of solicitors must have shared the erroneous belief that the right way to preserve a claim against insurers who were deputed by the Motor Insurers Bureau to contest a claim against dead defendants was to institute and maintain proceedings against the defendants themselves. But an action could not be brought between solicitors maintained against non-existent defendants.

Since the steps taken in the proceedings after the issue of the writ were all nullities, none of them could create an estoppel binding on Norwich Union.

The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by Norwich Union against an order of Mr Justice

Nolan that pursuant to Order 15, rule 6A(4)(b) of the Rules of the Supreme Court they be appointed to represent the estates of the first and second defendants for the purpose of proceedings.

Order 15 rule 6A provides: "(3) An action purporting to be commenced against a person shall be treated, if he was dead at its commencement, as having been commenced against his estate..."

(4) In any such action... (a) the plaintiff shall, during the period of validity for service of the writ... apply to the court for an order appointing a person to represent the deceased's estate for the purpose of the proceedings... (b) the court may, on such terms as it thinks just and either of its own motion or on application, make any such order as is mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) and allow such amendments (if any) be made and make such other order as the court thinks necessary in order to ensure that all matters in dispute... may be effectively and completely determined and adjudicated upon."

Mr Mark Strehlan QC and Mr Jeremy Posenmansky for Norwich Union; Mr William Crowther, QC and Mr Benjamin Browne for Mrs Foster.

LORD JUSTICE LEGGATT said that in May 1983 the plaintiff was being driven by her husband when their car was in collision with a motor cycle

ridden by one of the first two defendants, Mr Turnball and Mr Kenneth, with the other as a passenger. All three men were killed.

In December 1983 the plaintiff's solicitors learned that Norwich Union, insurers of the motor cycle which had been ridden without the consent of the owner, would be dealing with the plaintiff's claim. Norwich Union agreed that liability was not in doubt.

Because the limitation period of three years from the date of the accident was about to expire a writ was issued on May 23, 1986 naming the two dead men as defendants and also the owner although it was assumed in negotiations that the motor cycle had been taken without his consent.

The solicitors for the plaintiff asked Norwich Union to accept service. On May 29, 1986 Norwich Union asked for service on the firm of Sylvester & Mackett, Trowbridge, solicitors, on their behalf. That was done on June 2, 1986 and Sylvester & Mackett later acknowledged service on behalf of each of the three named defendants.

On May 22, 1987 the period of validity for service of the writ expired. In October 1987 and January 1988 further discussions on quantum took place without agreement.

In June 1988 Norwich Union changed their solicitors. The new solicitors, Greenwoods, wrote to the plaintiff's solicitors pointing out that they had failed to obtain an order under Order

15, rule 6A of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

There followed in September 1988 a hearing before a deputy district registrar who refused to make an order under Order 15, rule 6A and also refused to extend the validity of the writ. On December 16, 1988 Mr Justice Nolan allowed the appeal.

It had been common ground before the first and second defendants had died intestate before the commencement of proceedings, the plaintiff's solicitors ought to have applied for an order under Order 15, rule 6A(4)(a) that a person be appointed to represent the estates of those defendants and that proceedings be carried on against the person or persons so appointed.

Even if an order could properly have been made under paragraph (4)(b) of the rule, despite the fact that the plaintiff

had not complied with sub-paragraph (a), that could not have had the necessary retrospective effect, because, apart from the absence of any express words, the writ was never validly served, and indeed was never served at all on Norwich Union, whether validly or not.

There was therefore no relevant step, albeit a nullity, available to be validated, even if that were feasible.

Subject to the argument about estoppel the judge therefore had no jurisdiction to make the order appealed from.

Sylvester & Mackett could not have supposed that they were acting for personal representatives of the deceased since they neither had express instructions or specific authority to act for them nor grounds for believing that there were any; and, in any event, no personal representatives were parties to the action, and Sylvester & Mackett

did not purport to accept service on their behalf.

The alleged estoppel therefore failed because the estates were never more than "abstractions", or legal devices to save from invalidity the issue of the writ against the first and second defendants, and so a representation, even if acted on, that the solicitors had authority to accept service on behalf of the estates would not help the plaintiff.

It had been submitted that Norwich Union was to be taken to have represented that what was done would constitute good service. But service was not at large; it had to be upon a legal person.

None of the available candidates to accept service could have been validly served because none of them was party to the action except the defendants, and they were dead.

Since the steps taken in the proceedings after the issue of the

writ were all nullities, none of them could create an estoppel binding on Norwich Union.

The action had therefore died through the incompetence of the plaintiff's own solicitors.

But what they did or omitted to do was ascertained or contributed to, if not abetted or induced, by Norwich Union and Sylvester & Mackett since shortly after the accident had occurred, Norwich Union had been aware of the plaintiff's claim, and had declared that their liability to meet it was not in issue.

The substitution of Greenwoods for Sylvester & Mackett alerted Norwich Union's claims manager to the opportunity of doing what in *Chappell v Cooper* (1980) 1 WLR 958, 967H, Lord Justice Groom had referred to as "playing the game".

That did not mean acting in accordance with an acknowledged code of good behaviour, but cynically taking advantage

Rules for serving writs must be strictly complied with

Kenneth Allison Ltd v A. E. Linehouse & Co
Before Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Russell and Lord Justice Farquharson

[Judgment May 14]

The Rules of the Supreme Court codified the practice for the service of a writ and were to be complied with strictly. In the absence of an agreement as to the mode of service within Order 10, rule 3 there could be no proper service of a writ on the defendant's authorized agent, other than his solicitor.

A writ was therefore not validly served where a defendant's personal assistant accepted service on his behalf.

The Court of Appeal, Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, dissenting, so held dismissing an appeal by the plaintiffs, Kenneth Allison Ltd, from Mr Justice McCullough who, allowing an appeal by the defendants, A. E. Linehouse & Co, from the district registrar's order, had held that the writ had not been properly served on the defendants when one of the partners instructed his personal assistant to accept service on his behalf.

Mr Christopher Fletcher for the plaintiffs; Mr Dominic Dowley for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE RUSSELL said that the wording of Order 10, rule 1(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court was significant. It provided: "A writ must be served personally on each defendant by the plaintiff or his agent."

The rule was mandatory and there was no reference to an agent of the defendant, although there was to an agent of the plaintiff.

The words "personally on each defendant" did not admit of a construction permitting service on each by his duly authorized agent. Had that been the intention, the rule could and would have said so.

There were specific exceptions to personal service, such as postal service and service on the

defendant's solicitor, but nowhere was there any reference to any other agent of the defendant.

Order 81 was concerned with actions by and against firms, rule 3 dealing with service of process on partners. Again there was no specific or implied provision for service on an agent other than a solicitor.

His Lordship was of the firm opinion that the code established by the Rules of the Supreme Court for service of a writ had to be construed strictly. The reason could be found in the judgment of Lord Justice May in *Austin Rover Ltd v Croch Butler-Savage Associates* (1986) 1 WLR 1102, 1114 where he had emphasized that the Rules of the Supreme Court, particularly in the context of service combined with the operation of the Limitation Act 1980, had to be strictly complied with.

In the present case the attempt to serve the writ was only just within a year of its issue. His Lordship had not overlooked dicta which he regarded as obiter of Lord Justice Chitty in *Montgomery Jones & Co v Liebenthal* (1898) 1 QB 487, 493 stating that there was no rule prohibiting a person from agreeing as to the mode in which service might be effected on him.

His Lordship considered that the observation was made prior to the strict codification of practice now to be found in Order 10, and in particular in rule 3. That dealt with service of a writ pursuant to a contract and made express provision for service on the defendant "or on such other person on his behalf as may be specified in the contract".

There was no contract within the rule in the present case and his Lordship agreed with the judge that the writ had not been validly served.

LORD JUSTICE FARQUHARSON, concurring, said that it was plain that Order 10, rule 3 did not contemplate an *ad hoc* agreement made at the time of service such as the

arrangements made for service in the present case.

The contract with which rule 3 was concerned was that in respect of which the action was brought. The special provisions for service under rule 3 had to be made in the contract which was sued on. That was not the present case.

Mr Dowley had submitted correctly that the modern rules contained a code of practice with regard to service which should not be deviated from. The contracting provisions were now contained in rule 3 and it was not permissible for parties to contract for a different form of service inconsistent with that rule.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS, dissenting, said that the provisions as to service were necessary if the defendant was unwilling in the event to accept service, but his Lordship could not see why they were needed where a defendant was willing to do so and *a fortiori* why they should be intended to prevent his giving effect to that willingness in any way which appealed to him.

The sole purpose of service of proceedings was to bring them to the defendant's attention, to give him an opportunity of responding and fixing a time by reference to which time limits could be applied. That purpose was equally well served by a consensual service of proceedings as by service in one of the modes described by the rules.

Having referred to the judgment of Lord Justice Chitty in *Liebenthal's* case (at pp493-494), his Lordship concluded that it was quite clear that in 1898 the rules as to service were not regarded by the courts as being exclusive of any other mode of service.

He could not see why the situation was said to have been changed merely because additional modes of service had been brought within the scope of the rules.

Those rules were the servants not the masters of the courts and their customers. It would be wholly contrary to the spirit of the times that they should be construed in a manner which would forbid parties to act reasonably with a view to reducing or eliminating the activities inevitable in litigation, when to do so created no problems for the defendant in deciding precisely when service was effected for time limit purposes.

Solicitors: Ben Pearson G. J. Stirling & Co, King's Lynn; Pincus & Co, Birmingham.

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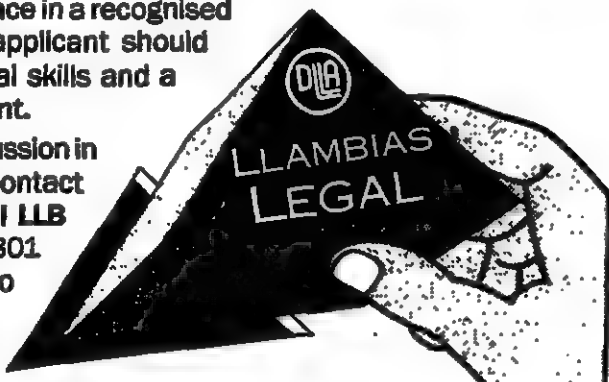
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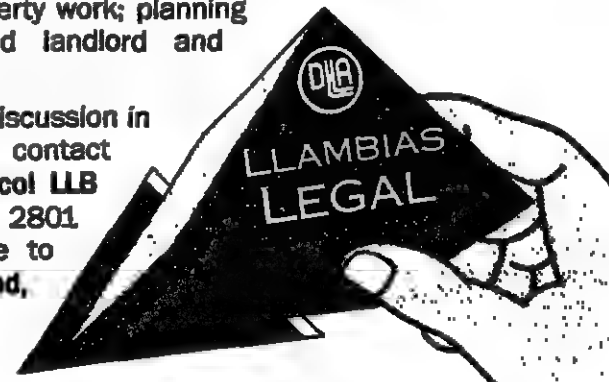
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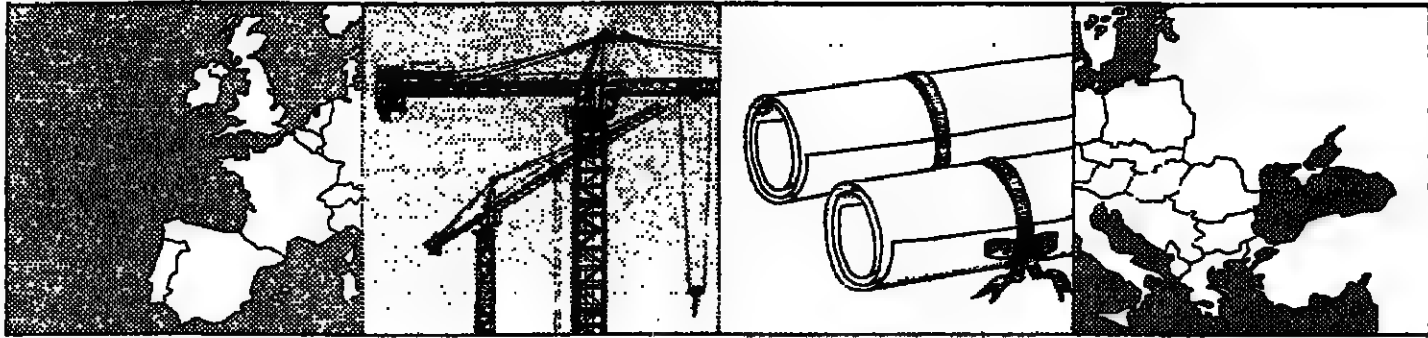
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As part of an international information technology and telecommunications group with a \$2 billion turnover, our client requires both a Senior Contracts Adviser and a Contracts Adviser within their Government and Defence Business Unit.

The successful candidates will form part of a high profile management team and are expected to be involved with setting and implementing contractual standards and practices, and contributing to the Unit's business plans and sales strategies.

Excellent interpersonal skills are required as there is an important part to play in negotiations with customers, liaising with

sales/business managers and dealing with subcontractors. A legal background whilst preferable is not essential.

For an applicant who can show prior contracts experience and the above qualities, there is a clear path for future promotion to senior management status. Interested applicants with less experience will be assured of a full training from the current Contracts Manager.

For further information applicants should telephone Jayne Bowtell LLB (Hons), Manager Legal Division on 071-437 0464, or write to her, enclosing brief details, at the address below.

ROBERT • WALTERS • ASSOCIATES

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
Queens House 1 Leicester Place London WC2H 7BP
Telephone: 071-437 0464

PENSIONS/
CORPORATE

Our Client is a long established City firm with a thriving and diverse commercial practice. It provides its fee earners with a dynamic and challenging working environment and a varied case load, made possible because its departments are grouped primarily by client type not individual specialism.

The Company Department is now seeking an additional lawyer, ideally 2-5 years qualified, who can bring further expertise in the field of pensions, employee benefits and share schemes.

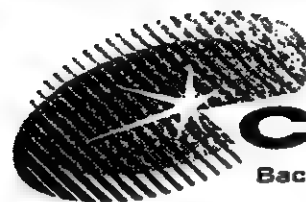
The role will be of particular interest to those who wish to continue applying their specialism whilst extending their practice into more general company/commercial areas. Further training and supervision will be provided where necessary.

The firm pays highly competitive City salaries and can offer genuine prospects to those of the requisite calibre.

For further information, please contact Jonathan Macrae on 071-405 6062 (081-672 8340 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 9 Brownlow Street, London WC1V 6JD.



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Backed by British Telecom

LEGAL ADVISER

Aged 25-35

c£24,000 + Car + Bonus

Telecommunications have become an essential feature of modern business with Cellular Mobile Communications as one of the most remarkable technological developments of recent years. Cellnet is at the forefront of this market possessing unrivalled experience in all forms of communication.

As a result of Cellnet's rapid expansion there exists an immediate requirement for a commercially minded lawyer to become involved with all aspects of the Company's activities.

Reporting to the Legal and Regulatory Manager responsibilities will include negotiation and drafting of contracts, monitoring and management of litigation processes and the provision of general commercial legal advice.

The Legal Adviser will be based at the new Corporate Headquarters in Slough. This position is perceived as a high profile role involving liaison with all levels of management from a broad spectrum of disciplines. The successful applicant will have the ability to demonstrate good commercial judgement, initiative, drive and enthusiasm.

This is an outstanding career opportunity for a lawyer with good company commercial or contracts experience to play a prominent role within a fast-moving, dynamic organisation.

For further information, interested applicants should telephone Fiona Campbell, on 071-437 0464, or write to her, enclosing brief details, at the address below.

ROBERT • WALTERS • ASSOCIATES

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
Queens House 1 Leicester Place London WC2H 7BP
Telephone: 071-437 0464

Construction
Birmingham

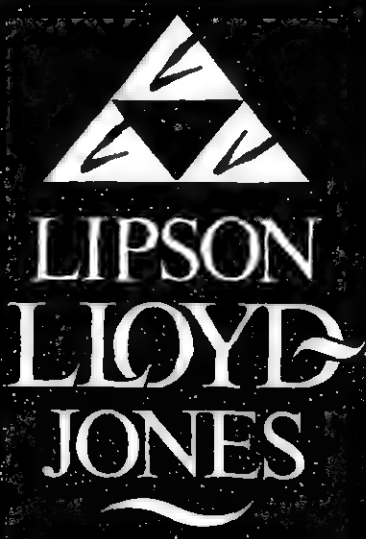
Our Client is one of Birmingham's leading private practices with an impressive commercial client base which includes plc's, major private companies and financial institutions.

They now wish to recruit a young and ambitious Solicitor with up to three years post-qualification experience to join an expanding and dynamic department dealing with all aspects of contentious and non-contentious construction work.

The successful candidate will ideally have some experience in construction related matters, although this is not essential, provided he/she can demonstrate commercial flair and the ability to work as part of a team in this pressurised but rewarding position.

A highly competitive remuneration package is offered together with the opportunity for considerable career development within the context of a thriving commercial environment.

If you would like to be considered for this challenging position, please contact Simon Lipson or Michael Silver, both of whom are Solicitors.

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Many of our Clients, in London, Hong Kong and the Provinces are particularly interested in recruiting lawyers with around two years' experience in their chosen field. Current instructions include:

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Banking c. £40,000
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Major commercial/insurance disputes in South East Asia region.

Employment To £32,000
Top firm seeks employment specialist for contentious/non-contentious mix.

For further information, or a discussion in complete confidence, please contact Jonathan Macrae on 071-405 6062 (081-672 8340 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 9 Brownlow Street, London WC1V 6JD.



UNITED KINGDOM • HONG KONG • NEW ZEALAND • AUSTRALIA

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Baker & McKenzie is looking to expand its team of lawyers working in its Central and East European Practice Group. With offices already operating in East Berlin, Budapest and Moscow, the Firm is seeking to recruit a number of skilled and enthusiastic practitioners.

The Positions offered are both at a junior and senior level in:-

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Applications should be made in writing and will be dealt with in the strictest confidence. They should be addressed to: Ms Halina Karpowicz, Baker & McKenzie, Aldwych House, Aldwych, London WC2B 4JR. Tel: (071) 242 6531.

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A small firm providing international fiscal and associated financial advice (but not investment advice) operating in London's West End, seeks Lawyer to provide legal input to co-ordinated advice to clients.

The Lawyer concerned should have suitable qualification, either as Solicitor or Barrister and, if possible, have experience in offshore trust and company services.

Attractive working conditions and profit sharing.

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Excellent salary package. If you are interested write with CV to:

Diane Chipman
Director of Administration & Personnel
Euromoney Publications
Nestor House, Playhouse Yard
LONDON EC4A 3EX

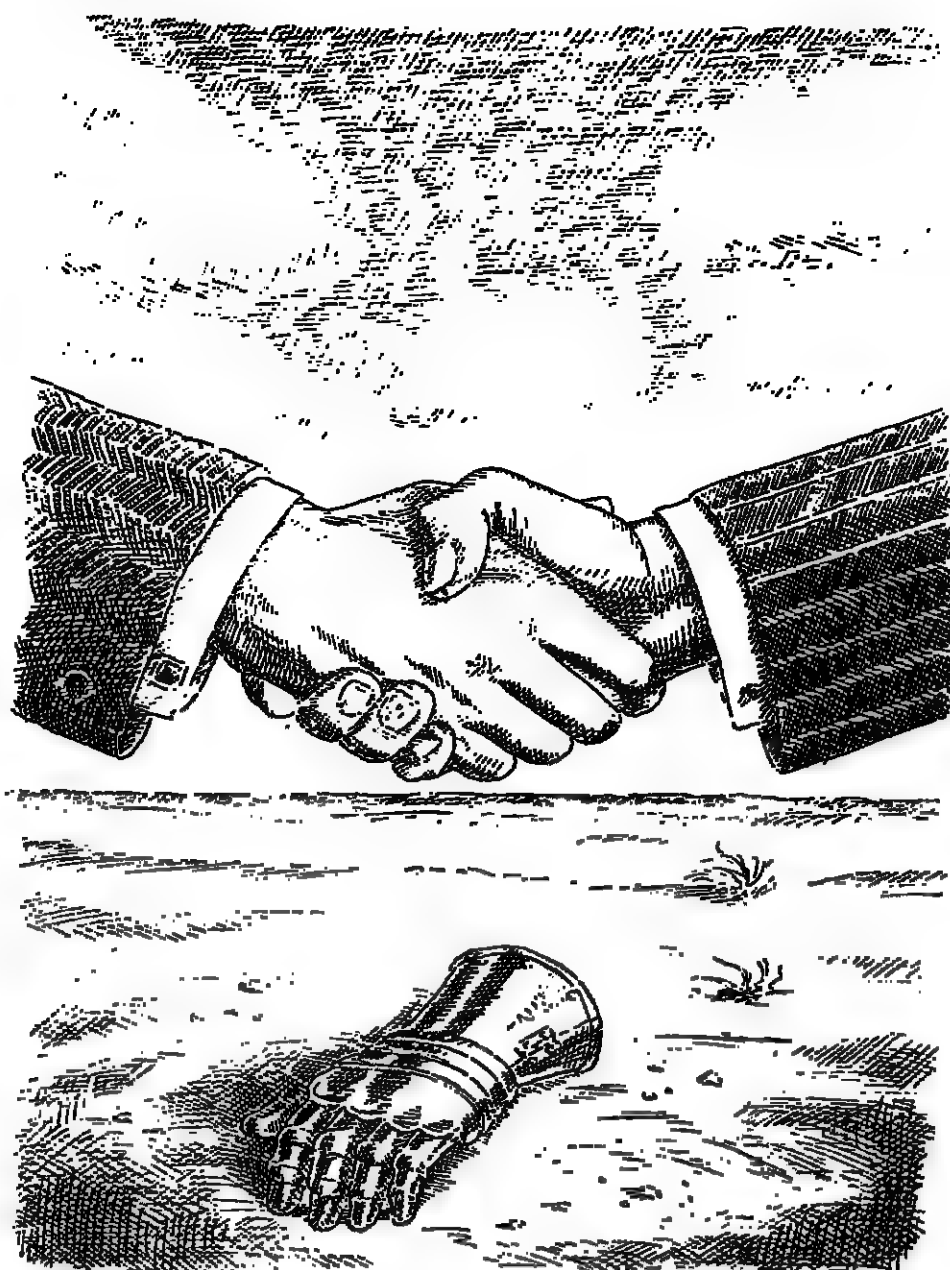
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Lawyers who succeed here are those who like to find creative solutions before problems ever reach court, those who take a constructive rather than a dogmatic approach.

We encourage the individual to decide on the way ahead, and as a qualified lawyer you will appreciate why. You know your own strengths, and will work with our other lawyers to achieve the best results for our clients.

This flexibility is also reflected in the wide variety of work you will be handling. Linklaters can offer you a range of experience which would be hard to match, giving you a broad base for your future.

The result - litigation lawyers with the imagination and confidence to work as individuals and who soon gain the knowledge and variety of skills which are necessary for success at the highest level.

If you would like to know more about the openings we have for qualified litigation lawyers, contact Anna Thorne on 071-606 7080, or write to her at Barrington House, 59-67 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7JA.

**L
&P**

LINKLATERS & PAINES

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£27 to £40,000

Niche city firm specialising in Employment. Seeks 2 solicitors, NQ-2 yrs + c3 yrs + strong academics to handle a mix of non contentious and contentious work.

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Any price

Leading City practice keen to recruit Pensions Lawyers. Open as to yrs PQE. Substantial remuneration for a proven track record.

BANKING

£25,000-£60,000

Holborn firm. Seeks banking lawyer NQ-5 yrs to act for Japanese banks. Strong personal skills.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

to £40,000

Leading Inns firm. Seeks a No 2 in the property team, c3yrs PQE, good city firm experience and commitment to succeed.

Contact Karen Mulvihill on 071-405 4571

We have made a commitment to 100% integrity - we never send out CV's without first referring to the candidate and seeking approval.

Applied Management Sciences

COMPANY COMMERCIAL + FLUENT FRENCH

to £40,000

Niche City practice, high quality work. Seeks solicitor 1-3 yrs PQE, strong academics + fluent French liaising with French companies.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

£25 to £38,000

Niche city practice seeks a solicitor 1-3 yrs PQE. City background and academics for wide variety of commercial litigation work.

PERSONAL TAXATION

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Medium sized city practice, seeks a solicitor c3/4 yrs PQE. Taxation advice re domicile, offshore trusts and CGT. Friendly dept - early partnership.

SHIP FINANCE

£45,000

Leading city practice seeks a solicitor 1.5-4 yrs PQE. Work related to major ship-rebuilding programme. Excellent prospects.

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Surrey LEGAL ADVISER

£35K + Car + Bens

Young solicitor or barrister 3-5 yrs PQE to handle company commercial work including contracts, joint ventures, IP, employment, EEC competition and general company work.

C. London CORPORATE

£50-60K Package

Young solicitor or barrister, 3-4 yrs PQE of corporate work gained in prestigious law firm. To handle transactions work including MBO's mergers and acquisitions and corporate finance.

South West LEGAL ADVISER

£40K + Bens

Major telecommunications company seeks dynamic solicitor or barrister min five yrs PQE to handle contracts, competition, joint ventures, mergers acquisitions, IP licensing and confidentiality agreements.

Hampshire SOLE LEGAL ADVISER

£34K + Bens

Well-known insurance company seek lawyer c2 yrs PQE as sole legal adviser. Handling contracts, consumer law, insurance and financial services legislation and compliance.

Herts LEGAL ADVISER

32K + Car + Bens

Well respected PLC, seeks young solicitor with c2 yrs PQE to handle company commercial work including contracts and IP. Travel is involved. French/German useful. Excellent prospects.

Sussex LEGAL ADVISER

£25K + Bens

Our client, a financial institution seeks a young solicitor or barrister c2 yrs PQE to handle company commercial work including contracts, employment, consumer credit, loans, mortgage and compliance matters.

Surrey LEGAL ADVISER

£25K + Bens

Our client seeks a young solicitor or barrister seeking a first move into industry. You will have minimum 1 year PQE of good quality company commercial work ideally including construction contracts.

Middlesex LEGAL ADVISER

£30K + Car + Bens

A dynamic Hi-Tech company seeks a young solicitor or barrister to handle a wide range of company commercial work including computer contracts, IP licensing and confidentiality agreements.

Contact Ian Pearce on 071-405 4571

Psychometric assessment is available to our candidates to select career alternatives best suited to their personality and aptitudes. The results are reviewed in confidence.

26-28 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4HE Fax: 071-242 1411 Evenings: 081-858 7840

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

c. £70,000-£150,000

TWO outstanding opportunities have arisen with our client, a highly successful commercial firm based in W1, which is committed to expansion and the development of its highly prestigious client-base.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY-EQUITY PARTNER

A senior lawyer is sought to head up the existing team of experienced property partners. It is envisaged that applicants for this post will be in a position to introduce an additional portfolio of commercial clients and to demonstrate a proven record of high performance and managerial ability. These credentials are essential in order to maintain the first class reputation and development currently enjoyed by other departments.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL-PARTNER DESIGNATE

Continued expansion in this extremely profitable area of the firm's business, has created a challenging opening for a first class commercial lawyer. Currently offering a wide range of corporate and commercial advice to private and public companies and successful entrepreneurs, the team requires another senior lawyer with aspirations towards early partnership and increased involvement in international work.

In both cases, the rewards on offer to the successful candidates are exceptional, and in the first instance, applicants should contact John Cullen or Lucy Hartley, in the strictest confidence, on 071-831 9988 (during office hours) or 081-802 7330 (evenings and weekends). Or, if you prefer, send your comprehensive CV to The Bloomsbury Group, 11th Floor, New Oxford House, 137 High Holborn, London WC1V 6PL.

**THE
BLOOMSBURY
GROUP**

Legal Division

EXECUTIVE SEARCH & SELECTION CONSULTANTS

LEGAL ADVISER- EUROPEAN H.Q.

* MOTOROLA worldwide - 100,000 people * UK sales - £700 million
* Expanding and innovative * Global leader in electronics & communication systems * Major international supplier of cellular telephones

M4 corridor - 20 minutes London

Our client, Motorola Ltd, requires a solicitor or barrister to assist the head of its small legal team in an exciting range of commercial matters. These will centre on diverse contracts, joint ventures, EC competition law etc and will place the appointee in live negotiations and high-level contact with business managers. There will be some opportunity for travel within the UK and overseas.

Candidates could have a background in private practice or in-house and should be approximately 1-4 years-qualified. Relevant experience is desirable, but maturity, commercial acumen and the desire for responsibility are essential. On offer is the chance to join a very successful company in an industry of the future.

A comprehensive benefits package, structured to attract the best, will include a high starting salary, 2.0 litre car etc. The Legal Adviser will also have his or her own office in a superbly appointed modern building. Relocation expenses are available.

For further information please contact Philip Boynton, LL.B., LL.M., on 071-405 6852 or write to him at Reuter Simkin Ltd, Recruitment Consultants, 5 Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, London EC4A 3DY.

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Expanding Common Law Chambers invite applications for tenancies from established practitioners 5 years call upwards. Group applications considered.

Applications in writing with curriculum vitae, in strict confidence, addressed to Mr. Michael Harrison and marked "Tenancy Application".

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CIVIL - general case load with emphasis on personal injury
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Two excellent opportunities to join a team committed to provide first class legal services in a first class professional environment.

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2. **CORPORATE TAX SPECIALISTS:** Experienced tax specialists required by this leading accountancy practice to join their expanding tax division. Assess the financial implications of corporate restructuring, acquisitions and disposals, USM flotations and "one-off" special assignments, often with international elements.

For further details contact **BARRIE PALLAN** on 071 404-3155 (day) or 081 853-1715 (even) or send CV to **ALDERWICK PEACOCK & PARTNERS** 125 High Holborn London WC1V 6QA. (Rec Cons)

ROYAL AIR FORCE LEGAL OFFICERS

A Selection Board will be held shortly to recruit officers for the RAF Legal Branch.

Applications are invited from barristers or solicitors aged between 26-32 who have experience in criminal and family law and in advocacy. Successful candidates will be commissioned in the rank of Flight Lieutenant at a salary commencing at £17,316* Subject to satisfactory service, officers on a permanent commission will normally have a career to age 60 with time promotion to the rank of Wing Commander. Promotion beyond that rank is by selection.

Initially officers will serve in London but opportunities will occur for service abroad on tours of duty for up to three years. For further information and details of career prospects, write with comprehensive c.v. to:

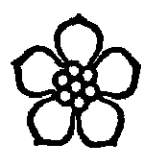
Air Commodore G. W. Carleton, RAF, Directorate of Legal Services, Lacon House, Theobalds Road, London WC1X 9RY. *1990 pay scale.

**ROYAL
AIR FORCE**

071-481 1066

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

071-481 1066

HAMPSHIRE
COUNTY
COUNCIL

HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT DEFENCE HERITAGE PROJECT

Project Co-ordinator

£23,395 - £27,735

The Defence Heritage Project is a major local authority and tourist board sponsored scheme that aims to promote the development, interpretation and marketing of Hampshire's wealth of castles, forts, military museums, historic ships and other heritage sites being brought together under the Defence of the Realm banner.

You will promote Defence of the Realm by co-ordinating the plans and activities of site owners, local authorities, tourist boards, and other defence heritage interests, and encouraging financial support from public and commercial sources.

Current driving licence required.

Job description and application form are available from the County Secretary, Hampshire County Council, The Castle, Winchester, SO23 8UJ. Tel: 0962 847301.

Relocating expenses up to 100% payable, plus mortgage subsidy and car leasing schemes.

The Council pursues a policy of equal opportunity and applications are particularly welcomed from people with disabilities.

Closing date: 15 June 1990.

National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery
Queens Square

COMMISSIONING OFFICER

The Authority is now well advanced with preparation for the redevelopment of its Queen Square Hospital. Work is in progress refurbishing the Examination Hall to provide decanting space for departments affected by the first phase which will start on site next year.

The Project Manager now needs to recruit a Commissioning Officer to manage the series of completions and moves that will start in the Autumn and reach a peak around the turn of the year. The cycle will be repeated in 1994.

The post will be of interest to Health professionals, experienced in large and complex capital works wishing to face a new challenge. Any professional background will be considered but experience of commissioning the engineering installations will be an advantage. An interest in the wider role of Project Management will help.

The appointment will be fixed term of two years but extendable to cover the period of the development subject to mutual satisfaction.

Salary will be by negotiation but it is unlikely that anyone currently earning less than £20,000pa will have the necessary experience. Performance related pay will allow the appointee to improve the basic salary.

Informal enquiries are encouraged and should be made to: Mr B. Williams, on 071-837 3611 ext 8711.

Send your CV under confidential cover to: Head of Personnel, No. 7 Queen Square, London WC1. CVs to reach us by the end of May, 1990. An appointment in June is intended.

SUNDERLAND HEALTH AUTHORITY

UNIT GENERAL
MANAGERS

To address the demands of securing high quality health services in the context of changing patterns of delivery, we have reviewed our structures and created two new significant Management Units.

We recognise that structures do not deliver Health Care and are seeking Unit General Managers with the vision, drive and skills needed to lead these major Units in meeting the challenges and opportunities of the NHS Review, at a time of substantial service change.

ACUTE HOSPITAL SERVICES UNIT

Salary Negotiable - circa £36,000 +PRP +Benefits

A large Acute Unit with over 1,000 beds in three hospitals, incorporating accident and emergency services and several sub regional specialties. The Unit employs 3,000 staff and has a revenue spend of £36.5m. A £15m capital development is scheduled for 1993. The Unit brings together two former Units of management, each with resource management sites.

MENTAL HEALTH REHABILITATION UNIT

Salary Negotiable - circa £32,000 +PRP +Benefits

This Unit brings together the Mental Health Unit and the Acute Elderly Services Unit into one significant specialist Unit. There is already a commitment to substantial service change, in mental health, involving a programme of increased community care and reduction in hospital beds. Significant changes in acute bed provision will enable the further development of specialist rehabilitation services. The Unit employs 1,600 staff and has a revenue spend of £19m.

We are seeking two outstanding managers with the ability and determination to succeed in these demanding high profile management posts. A track record of management achievement is essential.

These posts provide outstanding career and management opportunities and a comprehensive benefits and remuneration package. The area is one of immense variety and offers an enviable quality of life.

SUNDERLAND
HEALTH
AUTHORITY

To obtain an information package contact the District Personnel Department, District General Hospital, Kayll Road, Sunderland SR4 7TP. Tel. (091) 5656256 Ext. 2411.

Closing Date 8th June 1990

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Salary Range: Senior Management Grade C (£19,142-£21,042)



ARE YOU:

- Highly Motivated
- A Self Starter
- Enthusiastic
- Imaginative

The Dorset Management Services Unit is looking to recruit a management consultant to take a leading role in the provision of internal consultancy services to its clients which include the full range of County Council Departments. The existing postholder is moving to her new post with the Audit Commission.

DO YOU HAVE THE SKILLS AND ABILITY TO:

- Solve management and organisational problems
- Lead a team (or work alone)
- Communicate effectively
- Work to deadlines

IN ADDITION TO AN EXCELLENT SALARY WE CAN OFFER

- A Leased Car
- Flexible working hours
- An attractive relocation package

If you think you may fit this demanding role then further details and an application form may be obtained from: The Chief Executive, Dorset County Council, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ or telephone Graham New, Chief Management Services Officer (0305) 204831 for an informal discussion. The closing date for applications is 15th June 1990.

QUALITY
MONITORING
MANAGERNORTH LONDON BLOOD
TRANSFUSION SERVICE

Applicants are invited for this newly established post at the Regional Transfusion Centre responsible for the provision of blood and blood products for the population of 3.5 million.

The Quality Manager will be responsible for the design, development, implementation and maintenance of a comprehensive system of Quality Management in the Centre.

A science degree, preferably at the postgraduate level, is required. Experience of quality assurance and/or blood transfusion service are essential. A knowledge of GMP requirements, interest in information technology or ability to undertake research and teaching would be advantageous. The successful candidate should have initiative, good communication skills and the ability to motivate staff.

Salary approximately £18,000 - £20,000 (pay award pending).

For application form and job description please telephone 081-505 9842, 24 hour answering service or write to Personnel Department, NLSHC, Colindale Avenue, NW9 5BG quoting reference number 144/PTA90.

Closing date for applications: 28th June, 1990.

Visits should be arranged with Dr. S. Brozovic on 081-200 7777, ext. 2270.

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excellent company
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Directions 1990 is the largest Careers and Higher Education Fair of its kind.

Its aim is to put bright young people from across the country in touch with a range of organisations interested in high flyers, from school leavers to graduates.

It represents a unique opportunity for representatives from universities, polytechnics and top companies like the ones below, to meet the cream of Britain's youth.

If you think you fit any of the above descriptions, make sure you're at Olympia June 28th - 30th, for Directions 1990.

For more information about taking a stand at Directions, contact: Kate Dawson, Trotman & Company, 12 Hill Rise, Richmond, Surrey TW10 6UA. Tel (081) 940 5668.

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DIRECTIONS

CAREERS & HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR
28th 29th & 30th June 1990 Grand Hall OlympiaEUROPEAN PATENT
OFFICE

The European Patent Office is a self-financing intergovernmental organisation responsible for the granting of patents throughout Europe with a total of 4000 highly-skilled staff. The EPO is in the process of rapid expansion and is implementing a very wide-ranging automation plan, which involves overall investments of more than 300 million DM's over the next 5 years, and includes projects with budgets in the range of tens of millions of DM's in the areas of

- full electronic processing of patent granting procedures
- creation of text and image databases of over 20 million patent documents together with associated retrieval and document delivery systems
- electronic publishing
- personal computing
- office automation

To support and play a leading role in the plans outlined above the EPO is looking for a

DIRECTOR OF
SYSTEMS
DEVELOPMENT AND
MAINTENANCE

to be based in THE HAGUE, who will have office-wide responsibility for development and maintenance of EDP systems, involving the management of approximately 50 internal staff (project leaders and system analyst/programmers) and a significant number of external contractors.

Candidates for this post should have broad managerial skills, and experience in the development of advanced information systems especially in the areas of methodologies and project management.

Terms of Employment and Salaries

Permanent employees are offered an attractive salary which is exempt from national income tax (up to DM 150 000 a year depending upon age and experience) supplemented, where appropriate, by various allowances together with comprehensive private medical insurance coverage and a very attractive pension scheme.

Candidates must have a good university degree, an active knowledge of English, and the ability to understand French and German, as well as being nationals of one of the Member States of the EPO (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Fed. Rep. of Germany, France, Greece, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, The Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom).

Applications, accompanied by a curriculum vitae containing a detailed description of professional experience and a recent photograph should be made in one of the three official languages (English, French, German) to:

European Patent Office
Personnel Department
P.O. Box 5819
2280 HV Rijswijk
The Netherlands

European Patent Office
Personnel Department
Erhardtstrasse 27
D-8000 Munich 2
West Germany

Closing date for applications is two weeks after the date of publication of this advertisement.

150 من الاصل

HORIZONS

Our food protectors

Salmonella and listeria have been so well publicised during the past few years that questions about food and its preparation are now matters of public concern. Problems with benzene in Perrier water and scares about vandals who have put foreign matter such as glass and mercury into foods have been a regular occurrence in recent years. These pose questions to which the food scientists must find the answers.

Food is the largest item in the household budget, accounting for a fifth of total consumer spending, and the industry employs more than 650,000 people. All the leading food suppliers employ food scientists to develop new products, modify existing ones and ensure good hygiene and safety for the consumer.

Just one small scare can destroy the market for a well established brand name overnight. Employing food scientists, who have an in-depth understanding of the chemical and biological processes that occur in foods, are the manufacturers' best defence against such a catastrophe.

The Food Safety Bill, now reaching the final stages of its progression through Parliament, will inevitably increase the employers' demand for food scientists.

"The minister will almost certainly obtain powers to register and license premises on which food is processed

Industry uses modern technology to ensure that what we eat is safe.

Neil Harris meets the scientists

and prepared," says David Duke, lecturer in food legislation and quality assurance at Reading University.

"There will be a need for technically qualified people to help with that process. If a company is sued for food poisoning it will have to demonstrate that it has taken 'due diligence', and the only way it can do that satisfactorily is to employ technically competent staff.

A recent report from the Department of Health on the microbiological safety of food took a close look at how environmental health officers monitor and control the food industry. Again the support of more qualified food technicians would be a step in the right direction.

These developments are bringing food scientists, and the need for more of them, under the spotlight. Food scientists are laboratory based. Their work includes the study of every facet of the food chain, from the raw materials to the family meal.

Most manufacturers are highly responsible. Their employees' health and cleanliness are carefully monitored. Raw materials are stored in con-

trolled conditions, their quality checked, and bacteria kept at bay. Food scientists painstakingly research new processes for manufacturing foods and the effect that different processing methods have on novel products.

A few years ago they were under attack for putting too many additives into foods, especially colourings and preservatives. The present trend is to seek ways of reducing the presence of additives.

Packaging is another problem. It must be hygienic, keep foods fresh for as long as possible, and be attractive to the customer. Now, with increased public awareness of green issues, it must also be environmentally friendly and tamper-proof to deter vandals. Food scientists research the conditions in which different foods should be kept to maintain maximum shelf life. They are not concerned with storage only at the factory but also during transit, perhaps in refrigerated lorries, and on the retailers' shelves. It is a varied and demanding job.

One of the attractions of becoming a qualified food

scientist is that it provides an entrée into a diverse range of employers. The food industry itself is varied. It includes dairy products and beverages, bakery products, meat, cereals, chocolate bars and confectionery manufacturers.

But there are other employers. All the leading food retail chains employ food scientists to monitor their suppliers, propose new products and ensure the satisfaction of their customers. The Agricultural and Food Research Council and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food employ food scientists to work in their laboratories or on food policy matters.

In addition, there are independent research associations, including the Campden Food and Drink Research Association, which undertakes contract research.

Mr Duke says many more food scientists could be required to oversee the new regulatory mechanisms being set up by the Government, probably working in close co-operation with environmental health officers and the public analysts, who check food samples to track down where problems have arisen.

Two pamphlets, *Careers in Food Science and Technology* and *When to study for a career in Food Science and Technology*, can be obtained from the Institute of Food Science and Technology, 5 Cambridge Court, 210 Shepherd's Bush Road, London W6 7NL.



Testing times: Mr Tony Jay in his Greenford laboratory, Middlesex

DEVELOPMENT TEAM

TONY JAY, product development manager at Lyons Tetley, the Allied-Lyons food division, says: "We are in three businesses — tea, coffee and groceries. I manage three teams of scientists and technologists, and a back-up group. They work on the new product development of coffee and groceries, and create new packaging. This involves maintenance projects to extend or modify our products.

"Packaging is becoming more important. It must form a barrier to keep freshness and resist tampering attempts. It must be environmentally sound and not leave behind unacceptable waste. We are striving constantly to develop innovative packaging ideas.

"The coffee group is devoted to developing and understanding the technology of coffee-processing and how this may be used to benefit the company's new products and processes. The grocery team undertakes technical maintenance of existing products, improving Ready Brek, our breakfast cereal, for example, by removing artificial colours and developing new variants such as Country Brek and Honey Brek. The team has also found a way to reduce the additives and artificial colourings in fruit-topped cereals.

"Finding new products takes a lot of effort. For every new one that gets to the market, there are many failures. My team spent many years on the extensive development of cooker extrusion for breakfast cereals and bagged snacks, but these were eventually abandoned. Just a single success makes up for many failures. The development and launch of round tea bags took five years and £9 million, but its success gave us all a tremendous fillip."

Mr Jay graduated in food science 10 years ago from Leeds University. He began his career with Dairy Crest, where he helped to develop industrial spray-dried milk powders, before moving to Lyons Tetley.

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Application form and information package available from District Personnel Department, District Headquarters, Darenth Park Hospital, Gore Road, Dartford, Kent DA2 6LZ. Tel: (0322) 229322 Ext. 305/307

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SPORT

Wright's surprise in a date with destiny

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

MARK Wright was yesterday included in the predictable list of 22 players for England's World Cup squad for the finals in Italy this summer, but only after an early morning call. "That was a nice surprise for him," Bobby Robson joked as Wright had not been aware that he would be awoken shortly after 7 o'clock.

Wright had to keep an appointment with destiny. He was driven from the team's hotel in Buckinghamshire to London where his bruised thigh was X-rayed and scanned. Only when the results of the tests were known was the mind of the England manager put sufficiently at rest.

The prognosis revealed that Derby County's central defender should have recovered fully in six days. Robson trusts that Wright will indeed be fit before next Tuesday, when the squad must officially be submitted. If not, Adams will be invited to take his place among the reserves.

Of the four to be omitted, Adams collected the most lavish of the bouquets thrown deliberately in their direction. "He looked a gold nugget when he first came into the side," Bobby Robson said. "He's had a marvellous season and, in four years, he could be the captain of England."

Rocastle, another of the three Arsenal representatives to be told the crushing news, was also offered a few public words of comfort. "He's particularly unfortunate, because six months ago, he was a certainty before he was injured. He'll be a leading figure in the next World Cup as well."

Beasant and Smith, though they cannot realistically look forward to such bright horizons, were nevertheless mentioned in dispatches, too.

ENGLAND WORLD CUP SQUAD

	Age	Caps	Goals
Goalkeepers			
1 P Shilton (Derby County)	30	116	0
13 C Woods (Rangers)	40	16	0
22 D Seaman (Arsenal)	26	4	0
Defenders			
2 G Stevens (Rangers)	27	36	0
12 P Parker (QPR)	26	4	0
15 A Dorogi (Chelsea)	24	3	0
6 T Butcher (Rangers)	31	70	0
5 D Walker (Nottm Forest)	24	16	0
3 S Pearce (Nottm Forest)	28	22	0
14 M Wright (Derby County)	26	23	0
Midfield players			
19 T Steven (Rangers)	26	26	3
20 P Gascoigne (Tottenham)	22	9	2
17 S Robson (Man Utd)	33	84	26
18 S Hodge (Nottm Forest)	27	20	0
16 S McMahon (Liverpool)	28	12	0
8 C Waddie (Middlesbrough)	29	50	6
4 N Webb (Man Utd)	26	19	3
Forwards			
11 J Barnes (Liverpool)	26	51	9
9 P Beardsley (Liverpool)	29	38	7
10 G Lineker (Tottenham)	29	49	31
17 S Bull (Wolves)	25	5	3
21 D Platt (Aston Villa)	23	4	0

Team numbers refer to the official listing order for the Cup.

As well as "taking it like men" when they heard they had missed the cut, the quartet have contributed to raising the party's spirit to a level described as "terrific".

Having trudged away in disappointment, Adams, Beasant, Rocastle and Smith cannot afford to allow lethargy to set in. They have been asked to stand by in case of emergency. So have a few specialists "in case we lose, for instance, a full back".

Robson preferred not to disclose their identities, but he has already intimated that, should a full back be ruled out, the understudies would be Dixon on the right and Winterburn on the left. They are among seven Arsenal players to be rejected.

The squad will be one of the oldest and most experienced in Italy. Led in both departments by Shilton, who is on schedule to set a new world record of 120 appearances in

the tie against Netherlands on June 16, the average age is a few months over 28 and the average number of caps is 30.

Bobby Robson declares that it is also the strongest of the three he has assembled for an international tournament. The statement was accompanied by enough notes of caution to suggest that he is not yet ready to blow loud the patriotic bugle.

"It is the best," he said, "arguably, and on paper. But Franz Beckenbauer will tell you that the West German squad is the best he's had in his six years and the Egyptians are better than they were four years ago. We are all seeking to improve our standards."

Although Bryan Robson and Walker are indisputably in a higher class than were Reid and Fenwick, it would be unrealistic to claim that England are otherwise substantially superior to the side knocked out by Argentina in

the quarter-finals in Mexico in 1986. In some respects they are, if anything, potentially inferior.

Butcher is no longer as reliable, as was confirmed last week against Denmark. Beardsley, the natural foil for Lineker, has not played competitively for six weeks and cannot be certain of regaining his usual effervescence. Pearce is not as subtle as Sansom, nor are Gascoigne and Webb technically as gifted as Hoddle.

Barnes and Waddle have progressed, but they are still incapable of consistently fulfilling their potential. Even Lineker, immeasurably sharper now than when he was suffering from hepatitis during the European championships two years ago, will be, in Bobby Robson's words, "a marked man rather than a surprise package".

Apart from Lineker, Waddle and the contingent from Rangers, the rest have also missed another four years of education in the European classroom. Youngsters such as Dorogi, Gascoigne, Parker, Platt and Seaman are inevitably still novices in the international arena.

As has been the case throughout his national managerial career, Robson leans heavily on the contributions of his three most senior members — Shilton, Bryan Robson and Lineker.

Remarkably, in the last eight years the trio have never started and finished an international together in a losing side.

Yet the manager cannot shoulder the blame, even if there are deficiencies in the squad and misgivings about his side. As he stated yesterday, for once he has had to leave out no outstanding individuals. There can be few genuine complaints about any of the omissions because the quality is so limited.



Putting his problems behind him: Bobby Robson watches training yesterday before announcing his squad

Heel raises Robson doubt Bound for home not glory

By Stuart Jones

ENGLAND may bid farewell to the nation at Wembley tonight without their captain. Bryan Robson is considered doubtful for the international against Uruguay because he is still gingerly walking on a heel bruised after 10 minutes of the FA Cup final replay last Thursday.

Bobby Robson has a problem. To protect the unbeaten sequence of 17 matches, and to shield Gascoigne in central midfield, he needs his name-

England team

P Shilton (Derby County), P Parker (Queens Park Rangers), T Butcher (Rangers), D Walker (Nottm Forest), S Pearce (Nottm Forest), C Waddie (Middlesbrough), S McMahon (Liverpool), P Gascoigne (Tottenham Hotspur), S Hodge (Nottm Forest), G Lineker (Tottenham Hotspur), J Barnes (Liverpool).

sake leading the side. But he cannot afford to risk aggravating the injury less than three weeks before the World Cup opens.

Whichever decision is taken, there will be a sense of

uneasiness. If Bryan Robson does play, characteristically he will throw himself into a fixture which could be physically no less demanding than the Cup final replay. The Uruguayans, after all, are not renowned for their courtesy or gentility.

They might not be as committed to aggression as Crystal Palace, but both Scotland and, more recently, Northern Ireland will confirm that they are not averse to using their muscular power. Thus it would be almost a relief if Bryan Robson is withdrawn and McMahon is selected in his place.

If so, England are likely to drift with the tide, as was the case when McMahon was Gascoigne's partner against Denmark. When Bryan Robson was guiding the youngster, he scored once and created all three of the other goals against Czechoslovakia last month.

Parker is the lone unexpected selection at right back. Had he not been under suspension, he might have been included against the Czechs. Had he not been injured, he would have started against the Danes.

The line-up, as intended,

otherwise resembles Bobby Robson's strongest side. Gascoigne, although he has been given the No. 19 in the World Cup squad, has played himself into it, but must maintain his discipline tonight if he is to retain his position in the opening tie against the Republic of Ireland on June 11.

Hodge has been retained on the left flank in a formation which allows Barnes to resume his partnership with Lineker. Individually, they may be the first division's highest goalscorers, but they showed only flashes of a genuine collective understanding in their last appearance together.

The substitutes are to be announced today. McMahon, if not initially required, is certain to be among them, and so will Beardsley. His lack of competitive action is beginning to cause concern, even though Bobby Robson insists that he is fit and as lively as usual. "He has not played for six weeks," he said, "but he has sustained his sharpness in training. He has looked at the team for the last two matches and now he wants to fight for his place."

IF THERE is one thing to be said about England's team against Uruguay tonight it is that, if this represents the manager's basic World Cup formula, then there is some chance that England will return home after the first round in Sardinia and thereby preempt any subsequent disruption of the tournament by their so-called followers on the mainland: a mixed blessing.

Everyone in sport in England no doubt longs for another World Cup team in which we can celebrate, as with our last glory in 1966. Unfortunately, I suspect that the present team may not even make the best of what is likely to be a bad job.

Here, tonight, is predominantly the same side that revealed such shortcomings against Denmark last week. I know Ramsey's men lost at home to Austria 3-2 in 1965 and drew miserably with Poland at Goodison the following January, but that is another story. Ramsey was in a position to be able to leave out Byrne, Milne, Newton, Tamm and Thompson; and four years later, Coates, Kidd, McNab, Sadler, Shilton



David Miller

and Thompson. Bobby Robson does not have such choices available.

He is, however, heading for the finals with a team unsettled in performance and formation and it is difficult to see how it is going to be put right: other than by accident, as during the 1986 finals.

Looking at the squad of 22 for Italy, it must be said in Robson's defence that there are not too many alternatives. England is short of good players. The presence of Bull makes that apparent, for there are many opponents in the finals who would allow Bull hardly a kick at the ball. Yet we should not mock our players for being less good than we would like them to be. On the other hand it does not help to suggest they are better than they are, as when the manager talks of Gascoigne in terms of Maradona.

It is encouraging at least that a place has been found for

Parker at full back, and maybe he can play himself into the team tonight. England are going to need someone else besides Walker who is a fast tackler. There will be some ball chasing to be done next month.

The preference of Wright to Adams is somewhat academic. Both failed conspicuously in the European Championship two years ago — as did Stevens, still there in the squad — though each has improved a little since then. Wright more than Adams, by all accounts, though I have seen less of Derby. The worry is that Butcher is showing alarming signs of decline and a reserve centre back may well be needed in a hurry.

Just as worrying as the state of the defence, when judged at the higher levels — never mind those unbeaten 17 matches — is the shape of the midfield and attack, which continues to vary.

I do not believe there is room in the same team for Waddie, Gascoigne and Barnes — at least, not this team — given the other uncertainties.

The inclusion of Gascoigne

demand the presence of three midfield ball-winners, Steven, Robson and Hodge, so as to liberate Gascoigne. At the same time, it will take an extraordinary rush of maturity by Barnes to fulfil a role as Lineker's central partner and successor to Beardsley. Against Denmark, Barnes was often pretty but irrelevant; always doing clever things, seldom finding an end-product. The invisibility, on the night, of Waddie was part of the problem, no one besides Lineker making runs to open spaces for Barnes to give the ball. Besides, Barnes is supposed to be running to Gascoigne's pass.

These rhythms, absent in friendly matches, are not suddenly going to crystallize when the chips are down in cup-ties.

If the Uruguayans, potential semi-finalists, are serious tonight, England will learn how difficult it can be to find the ball. Talking of Uruguay in the semi-finals reminds me that Clement Freud, who once used to write about football as well as cookery, owes me a fiver from 1970. In Mexico, he bet against them to reach that stage. They are always skilful.

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NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

TBC/6

Gallagher to sign for Leeds

By Keith Macklin

LEEDS Rugby League Club yesterday announced the signing of John Gallagher, the New Zealand rugby union full back, on a five-year contract. Alf Davies, the Leeds chief executive, said: "This is beyond doubt the biggest ever signing from rugby union."

Gallagher, acknowledged as the world's No. 1 full back, was born in London, and will not count as one of the three overseas players British league clubs are allowed.

Davies would not confirm the sum of money involved, though it is believed to be between £300,000 and £400,000. News of the deal, to be announced with the player at Headingley on Friday, leaked out in New Zealand.

Leeds became interested in Gallagher when he came to Britain on tour at the end of last year. David Ward, the Leeds coach, flew out to New Zealand, ostensibly to visit another player on the club's books, but in fact began negotiations with Gallagher.

Counties again reject moves for more four-day cricket

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

THE softest possible compromise on the touchy subject of four-day county championship cricket was astonishingly rejected at Edgbaston yesterday. An emergency meeting of the Test and County Cricket Board, requisitioned by seven counties, voted 9-9 on a proposal to increase the number of four-day games from six to eight as from next season. The TCCB chairman, Raman Subba Row, declined to exercise his casting vote and so, to the great dismay of everyone connected with the England team, the status quo still holds.

Board officials had been confident that the motion, put by Warwickshire, would obtain the necessary majority and its failure certainly takes some explaining.

When the concept of 16 four-day games was heavily defeated at the spring meeting, the thrust of the case against was lack of revenue and membership interest due to lost playing days. As the compromise plan, which still contained 14 three-day games, provided each county with

two additional days of cricket, even those whose vision of the future extends no further than the last column in the balance sheets, could surely find no financial grouse on which to block it.

This time, the argument against even minor reforms was still more tenuous. According to Alan Smith, chief executive of the TCCB, "a number of clubs felt it was too soon to see a change after the meeting in March had decided to continue with the present structure".

It is, of course, confusing for the poor old cricket watcher, now asked to absorb fluctuating numbers of three and four-day games. But spectators have not often been the first priority when major policy decisions are taken.

The only four counties to support a wholesale switch in March were Warwickshire, Surrey, Leicestershire and Glamorgan. Yesterday they were joined by Worcestershire, Hampshire, Nottinghamshire, Somerset and MCC. The Minor Counties abstained.

The meeting occupied only one hour but was preceded by a debate at the board's executive committee, at which Subba Row made it plain he would not use his optional vote to settle a split decision. His reasoning was that this meeting was called by members, rather than the board itself. Given that Subba Row has always been one of the most forthright proponents of the four-day game, his reticence can either be translated as honorable or as an abandonment of beliefs.

Just as fascinating is the role of Northamptonshire and Essex. Both had given the Warwickshire executive grounds to believe they would be supporting them but voted against. The irony is that their captains are Allan Lamb and Graham Gooch, respectively vice-captain and captain of England; both are personal supporters of four-day cricket, views which hold no sway within their committee rooms.

More cricket, page 47

New Zealanders neck and neck

By Barry Pickthall

AFTER racing 33,000 miles around the world, Peter Blake's *Steinlager 2* and her New Zealand rival, *Fisher & Paykel*, skipped by Grant Dalton, were slugging it out within sight of each other in the English Channel last night in a cliff-hanging duel to take line honours at Southampton at the end of the final stage of the Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race.

Blake and his crew have won each of the previous stages, and barring last-minute accidents, the 35-hour cushion they hold on elapsed time will give them the overall trophy with ease. What Dalton's crew desperately wants is to deny them a clean sweep. Both yachts were due to reach Southampton early this morning.

When Blake spoke to race headquarters in Portsmouth yesterday, he said the two leaders were sailing "tick for tack", and was not very happy at the prospect of warding off his rival, for the conditions,

he said, favoured Fisher & Paykel.

Behind them, Merit has built up a 68-mile lead over Rothmans after the winds deserted the British maxi on Sunday, but ran into problems herself when the lower starboard shroud broke the same day.

This is the third reported incident of broken rigging during this last testing stage. LEADING POSITIONS (at 13.36 GMT yesterday with miles to Southampton): Merit (British maxi), 1, 1,000; Rothmans (British maxi), 2, 1,000; Fisher & Paykel (New Zealand), 3, 1,000; Steinlager 2 (New Zealand), 4, 1,000; Dalton (New Zealand), 5, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 6, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 7, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 8, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 9, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 10, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 11, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 12, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 13, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 14, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 15, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 16, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 17, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 18, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 19, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 20, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 21, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 22, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 23, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 24, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 25, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 26, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 27, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 28, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 29, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 30, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 31, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 32, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 33, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 34, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 35, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 36, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 37, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 38, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 39, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 40, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 41, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 42, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 43, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 44, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 45, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 46, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 47, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 48, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 49, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 50, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 51, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 52, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 53, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 54, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 55, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 56, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 57, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 58, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 59, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 60, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 61, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 62, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 63, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 64, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 65, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 66, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 67, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 68, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 69, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 70, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 71, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 72, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 73, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 74, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 75, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 76, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 77, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 78, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 79, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 80, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 81, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 82, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 83, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 84, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 85, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 86, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 87, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 88, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 89, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 90, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 91, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 92, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 93, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 94, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 95, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 96, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 97, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 98, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 99, 1,000; Gannet (British maxi), 100, 1,000.

*Compiled by British Telecom.